Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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CIS Secret Service Heads Agree on Cooperation

MK1703134095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by Oleg Rubnikovich under the "In Brief" rubric: "Special Services Reach Understanding"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting of CIS special service chiefs has ended in Moscow. The meeting was attended by representatives of 11 states of the former USSR, except for the Baltic states. The main item of the meeting's crowded agenda was joint resistance to organized crime. The countries agreed to exchange information and to counter operations of third countries' special services; they also concluded bilateral agreements on the impermissibility of the counterpart special services' operations on each other's territory. According to participants in the meeting, understanding was reached on absolutely all matters. The special service chiefs agreed to turn such meetings into a permanent body. The next meeting is due to be held in Tbilisi in late May. It is scheduled to approve the legal framework for cooperation and to devise a mechanism of further collaboration.

More on CIS Secret Services Conference

MM1703150295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Igor Andreyev: "CIS Secret Services Join Forces—but Later than the Criminal World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time in the history of the CIS, a conference of leaders of the secret services of CIS member countries devoted to the struggle against organized crime has taken place near Moscow. As Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS] Director Sergey Stepashin told journalists, it is a little belated, as, unlike the delegates assembled at the conference, the criminals got their act together somewhat earlier.

The meeting's agenda included resistance by the secret services against the illegal circulation of narcotics and weapons, nuclear terrorism, and financial machinations on virtually the whole of the area of the former USSR. The problem of the reciprocal extradition of criminals and suspects, which, it was noted, requires interstate agreements on legal assistance and the active cooperation of other law enforcement organs, primarily the Prosecutor's Offices, was, in the words of Stepashin and his colleagues, discussed very seriously.

As the conference participants noted, not one of the questions discussed gave rise to any major differences of opinion. According to an appraisal from Belarusian KGB Chairman Colonel General Vladimir Yegorov, the meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of unanimity and satisfaction at the renewed contacts. In line with the final document signed by everybody, the conference is to be a standing organ. In turn, its own working organ will be the Secretariat, presided over by the director of the FSC. Another meeting will be held in approximately two months' time in Tbilisi. Then, the secret service leaders hope, they will sign an extensive treaty on specific forms of cooperation. For the time being, it has been decided to set up a united data bank—in Moscow, at the FSC computer base. The Russian secret services, S. Stepashin said, will help foreign colleagues to set up electronic information provision.

Answering questions from journalists, Colonel Anvar Salikhbayev, deputy chairman of the Uzbekistan National Security Service, refuted the notorious claims about the summary execution of gangster formations there. In his words, five or six groups were disbanded as a result of investigations conducted over three-four years by the secret services together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other law enforcement organs in the republic.

Belarusian Gen. V. Yegorov confirmed that cooperation between the secret services of the CIS directed against countries of the far abroad was also discussed at the conference. A question from IZVESTIYA on whether or not it is true that the secret services of nearby foreign countries are, as claimed last year by the FCS, operating on Russia's territory was met with complete silence from those to whom it was addressed. With obvious displeasure, S. Stepashin answered for his colleagues, announcing that what they had in mind was the national security organs of the countries of the Baltic Region, and that not a single one of the secret services represented at the conference has ever engaged, or is engaging, in such activity.

Latest Movements in CIS Currency Exchange Rates

MM1703150795 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 17 Mar 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "The Ruble, the Karbovanets, the Tenge, and the Rest. A Brief Review of the Limited Convertibility Currency Markets"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The trend in the national currency exchange rates in the CIS financial area has been steadily downward recently. Most analysts associate this with the direct intervention of the republics' central banks in regulating their own currency exchange rates.

The behavior of the Belarusian ruble is the most difficult to predict today. Its stabilization is connected with the Belarusian Government's control of the exchange rate and the lack of resources among potential customers.

However, at auctions in the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange in the past two weeks, the Belarusian ruble has risen confidently. It rose to 3.85 Russian rubles for 10 Belarusian rubles.

The major financial event of late February occurred in Ukraine. For the first time in the past 18 months the Russian ruble's rate at currency exchange auctions at the Ukraine Interbank Currency Exchange exceeded the

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interbank quoted price. Thus it may be said that the process of unification of market and currency exchange rates for the karbovanets in Ukraine is coming to an end.

Contrary to the forecasts of dealers at Russian banks specializing in work with "soft" currencies, the price of the Kazakh tenge quoted two weeks ago has risen again. At recent auctions at the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange the rate for the Kazakh currency was fixed at 73.950 rubles to the tenge.

A new mechanism for auctions in the tenge and the Belarusian ruble was introduced at the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange on 1 March in which the rate is defined as the average weighted [srednevzveshennyy] indicator of all completed deals. This will help to avoid speculative bank operations designed to boost the official exchange rate of any of the "soft" currencies to a more advantageous level. Specialists are noting that the advantages of the new system of auctions include more flexible opportunities for selling different amounts of currency at differentiated prices as well as the reduced likelihood that auctions will actually be canceled when the opening price is unacceptable to either the seller or the buyer. Finally, the introduction of a new mechanism for auctions in "soft" currencies should pave the way to the proposed transition to electronic trading in the single system of the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 18 Mar

LD1803071095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0605 GMT 18 Mar 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 18 TASS—Under the headline "Boris Yeltsin: We Do Not Expect Extreme Situations This Year", the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper features an account of a talk between the Russian president and representatives from leadings newspapers of the G7 countries as well as Egypt.

Referring to its own sources, the IZVESTIA newspaper reports that the president's office received for signature a bill directly concerned with security of each Russian citizen. The newspaper notes that the document was submitted to parliament by the president. It passed three readings at the legislature without any hitches. It was not even discussed at the Federation Council (Russian parliament upper chamber).

The daily believes that "the bill on federal security service" provides for establishing actually a new secret service with broad powers. The Federal Counterintelligence Service (FCS) will operate under a new signboard, Federal Security Service (FSS).

Several powers, of which the FCS was deprived as a result of reorganisations, will be restored.

The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper features an interview with First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays. Asked about priority areas of budgetary investments the vice-premier replied: "The development of the social sphere is the first and foremost area.

"It will be followed by profitless industries which are, nevertheless, very necessary. The state also intends to invest in industrial projects which are connected with transport infrastructure.

"Last but not least, the government put forth, for the first time this year, the principle of financing jointly projects where impressive profits are expected. Part of outlays will be shouldered by the state, and the other part—by private investors. Revenues will be divided according to invested funds."

Writing about the all-Russian congress on rational nature utilisation, which ended in Moscow on Friday, the TRUD newspaper reports that 54 million hectares of ploughland are now afflicted by erosion, four million hectares are saline, one million is contaminated with radionuclides and 37 million hectares urgently need liming.

Newspapers inform their readers that the mutiny in Baku was quashed. Reporting a TV address by Azeri President Heydar Aliev on Friday, TRUD notes that he "highly praised bravery and heroism of state defenders who rebuffed armed criminals and prevented a coup, connections from which, as was the case six months ago, lead to Moscow, to Azeri ex-President and ex-Premier Ayaz Mutalibov and Suret Guseynov, respectively.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper carries an article by Sergey Kalashnikov, chairman of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) committee on labour and social maintenance, who claims that "the state should hold control over the main Russian TV and radio network 'Ostankino' in its own hands.

"At the same time, there is no need for hypocricy and for calling state television 'non-government', since such lies will block the road to real non-government television which can and must appear in our country," Kalashnikov said.

Many newspapers print materials devoted to the 80th birthday of famous pianist Svyatoslav Rikhter. IZVESTIA calls him "Svyatoslav the Great".

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Columnist Criticizes U.S. on ABM Talks

MK1803071095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 17 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Belous report in the "Treaty" column: "The ABM Talks Have Reached a Deadlock. Moscow Considers the Compromise Proposed by the Americans Unacceptable"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The question of ABM systems has shifted to first place on the Russian-U.S. agenda. Negotiations on this subject began at the end of 1993 but now they have been suspended, and it is not known when they will resume. Moscow insists on the need to limit the flying speed of U.S. interceptor missiles, and it hoped that the negotiations would be resumed 6 April. The U.S. Administration, however, declared that it will not take part in any official negotiations on military operations theater (MOT) ABM systems until corresponding high-level decisions have been made. The Americans' point of view is that the ABM Treaty does not and should not encompass MOT ABM systems designed to protect U.S. troops abroad. The position by the Russian side is presented below.

In a joint statement by the Russian and U.S. Presidents of 28 September 1994, both sides stated with satisfaction: "Noting the progress that has recently been achieved on the question of differentiating between strategic and 'tactical' ABM's, and also an expansion in the range of parties to the ABM Treaty, the presidents have entrusted corresponding delegations, jointly with other states party to the treaty, with finalizing the coordination of questions remaining in this context within the shortest possible time period." The impression was that all difficulties were already behind and that a green light had been given on the way toward a final resolution of the problem.

The next meeting of delegations as part of the ABM negotiations was to have begun this March. The United States, however, unilaterally postponed the negotiations indefinitely.

What is now happening around the negotiations on the problem of ABM differentiation, which proceed within the framework of the standing consultative commission? Recently, especially after the victory by the Republican Party in mid-term Congressional elections, the ABM problem has been rapidly moving into the focus of public attention. The question is about the fate of a major political document—the 1972 Treaty—which over more than a quarter of a century has proven its viability in limiting the arms race, and made it possible to conclude Russian (Soviet)-U.S. agreements on drastic reductions of strategic offensive weapons. The far-reaching plans for ABM tests in the next few years, which have been published in the United States, transfer the problem from the sphere of theoretical considerations to the plane of practical politics. Without waiting for the negotiations to be resumed, the United States conducted a flight test of a non-strategic sea-based ABM system which intercepted a ballistic target.

At the same time, the present U.S. Administration officially favors the preservation of the ABM Treaty, in its traditionally "narrow" interpretation. In this, it proceeds from a rather sober assessment of possible implications for the thwarting of the treaty, and at least in word supports the course toward developing an MOT ABM system so that in the process of work this major international- legal document should not lose its importance or value. The road to hell, however, is paved with good intentions.

Judging by numerous publications in the foreign press, during the course of negotiations the U.S. side has been persistently making such proposals about ABM differentiation that, should they be adopted, the newly developed MOT ABM systems will acquire a capability effectively to intercept also strategic missiles. In this event the ABM Treaty can simply be deposited in the archives while the arms race will recur. The Russian side can hardly be expected to agree to such a "compromise."

Recently the United States has witnessed invigorated efforts by political forces advocating the "restoration of America's security" wherein the requirement for creating a large-scale ABM system is among the top priorities. Some senators even demand that the administration stop the ABM negotiations, which can allegedly limit U.S. freedom of action. In fact the intention is to reanimate the Reagan SDI program, although in a more modest form, taking into account the new political realities that have recently taken shape in the world. Recently the House of Representatives adopted a resolution which, by a margin of a mere six votes, threw out a section bearing on ABM. Now this resolution will be submitted to the Senate's consideration, and if it is approved, a conciliation commission will be set up to work out proposals on the further fate of the ABM program. Such a resolution will be far from identical to a "declaration of intent," and in the event of its adoption it will become a practical program for "rearming" the United States.

It seems that the United States intends to put Russia before the fait accompli of a test whose results should produce a corresponding impression on the opponent. Such an approach to the negotiating process would mean a return to those methods of doing business with Moscow which were characteristic of the "Cold War" period.

What, then, are such actions by the United States with respect to ABM systems fraught with? It must be admitted immediately that if the ABM Treaty is effectively undermined, further implementation of the START I Agreement will be in question. The interrelation of strategic and defensive armaments, which underlies these international-legal enactments, conditions the need for their simultaneous control and limitation.

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The inconsistent and conflicting nature of U.S. policy with regard to ABM systems can lead to a dragging out and even an indefinite delay of ratification of the START II Treaty by the Russian parliament. This in turn could negatively impair the fulfillment of obligations on the liquidation of strategic nuclear weapons which have been assumed by Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. All this, to be sure, will have a negative impact on the fate of the nuclear nonproliferation regime. It is rather dubious that such a prospect responds to the national interests of the United States.

A reasonable way out of the present situation consists in the earliest possible resumption and the successful completion of negotiations on differentiating between strategic and non-strategic ABM systems, based on a clear-cut definition and coordination of corresponding parameters and criteria, precluding the undermining of the ABM Treaty regime, leading to mutual trust and to greater responsibility.

Yeltsin Meeting With Foreign Newsmen Detailed

MM1703210295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Mar 95 First Edition pp 1, 2

[RIA-NOVOSTI Report: "Boris Yeltsin: We Do Not Expect Emergency Situations This Year. Russian President's Conversation With Representatives of Leading Newspapers from the G-7 Countries and Egypt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the beginning of the conversation, B.N. Yeltsin noted that he had the text of an opening address dealing mainly with the situation in the Chechen Republic, although in view of the roundtable conference on this subject held the day before at the Russian news agency NOVOSTI he preferred to answer questions. But first the president touched on Russia's economic situation.

"From the viewpoint of implementing economic reform," Yeltsin said, "we made a better start to 1995 than last year." While the level of inflation was 17 percent by the end of last year, it has now fallen to approximately 11 percent. In half of the industrial sectors an increase in production is being noted. As regards the supply of food products and other goods, the problem is the same as in leading countries: Everything is available if the money is there. After we scrapped the old system, of course, differentiation in the population's incomes appeared. Some 60 percent of Russia's gross product has now been privatized and is in private ownership. And all that in just two years.

Yeltsin recalled that in his message to the Federal Assembly he had clearly outlined the political and economic parameters for the country's future development. "We are moving on to a new stage of the reforms—a deeper and at the same time more integrated stage regarding relations with the CIS countries, especially Belarus and Kazakhstan. A corresponding decision on relations with Ukraine is being prepared now too. Thus an integrated union is being created, but not in the old form, because each of these states will remain independent, autonomous, and sovereign," the Russian president said.

"This year we do not expect any emergency situations, coups, or the like, although the mass media at home and abroad sometimes talk about this. It is with the mass media that we are most in dispute at the moment. They criticize us and we criticize them. But this is a normal phenomenon in your countries too," the president noted.

By the end of this year we expect to have an inflation level of 1-2 percent, that is, we confidently expect that the worst of the crisis will be over. Moods among the Russians differ, of course: Some people have good incomes, and their mood is good too. But some have lower incomes and their mood is not so good. We believe that the difference in incomes will also be reduced by the end of the year by means of raising low incomes. Our main achievement is that people who for 75 years have not known the meaning of private property and have lived under a totalitarian regime have begun to understand what the market is and what shares are. Initially many of them had no faith in these pieces of paper when shares were given to them, but now they do have faith, especially since the stock market is developing rapidly in Russia. That is why workers are now very interested in ensuring that their enterprise works efficiently and has a good income. Of course, not all 100 percent of the population think or act that way, but the majority do, at least. This conclusion is based not only on the official statistics but also on my personal impressions.

The NEW YORK TIMES correspondent then requested an assessment of the state of Russian-U.S. relations and asked whether U.S. President B. Clinton's visit to Moscow would take place in the near future. Was it envisaged in this connection that such a visit could take place only after the settlement of the conflict in Chechnya?

B.N. Yeltsin said that the United States and B. Clinton personally had reacted very calmly and normally to the situation in Chechnya. When speaking at news conferences the U.S. President had repeatedly said firmly that he supported President B.N. Yeltsin. "Our relations are good. Currently we have a common problem: How to ratify the SALT II Treaty, because we had agreed, as soon as this treaty was ratified, to start elaborating the next treaty on reducing strategic weapons, that is to say the SALT III Treaty."

Certain U.S. mass media are dramatizing the question of Russia's position on the expansion of NATO. "Yes, here our positions currently diverge. We are against a major, accelerated expansion of NATO. After all, what is happening: As soon as we have left a bloc system there is a danger that new blocs will be created—if all the East and Central European countries joined NATO, NATO's borders would directly approach Russia's. It would seem that once again two blocs would appear: Russia and

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NATO. Does this really accord with security in Europe—universal, pan-European security? It does not. Things would not become more peaceful."

As regards B. Clinton's upcoming trip to Moscow, the Russian president noted that this year marks a regular official visit by the U.S. President to Russia. "He will come, of course, but the dates of this visit have not yet been agreed," Yeltsin stressed. According to him, Clinton "wants to come for 9 May, and Chechnya is no obstacle to this." The U.S. president would not like the television, press photographers, and the mass media to focus attention on the fact that he will be depicted against a backdrop of military hardware and arms.

B.N. Yeltsin announced that it is planned to hold a parade on Red Square 9 May but without modern military hardware. The Russian President will deliver a speech on Red Square, and veterans will also speak. B.N. Yeltsin announced that President F. Mitterrand of France has already agreed to attend the 9 May celebrations in Moscow. The leaders of other states are expected to attend too.

A French journalist asked a question regarding Yeltsin's recent conversation with Hungarian leader Horn, in which the problem of Hungary's possible admission to NATO was broached. The Russian president confirmed that in this conversation he had said that Russia's relations "with Hungary were somehow more peaceful": bilateral cooperation was developing more dynamically, and of all the countries of Eastern and Central Europe it was with Hungary in particular that Russia's trade turnover was increasing. "Some have oriented themselves toward the West and some toward Russia. Hungary is still orienting itself more toward Russia, because our technology is in use in the Hungarian economy."

Boris Yeltsin reported that an exchange of messages between the Russian and U.S. Presidents on the NATO expansion question was currently in the pipeline.

A German journalist asked for Yeltsin's opinion regarding the implementation of the accords concluded in 1990 with the former USSR leadership on the question of the restitution of cultural assets to Germany. The Russian president said that this question had been repeatedly discussed with FRG Chancellor H. Kohl. The issue concerned not just assets taken from Germany to Russia but also vice versa.

A British journalist asked a question regarding the mechanics for making decisions on economic problems and the participation in this process of the Russian president's security service, as alleged by certain mass media. "The most important decisions are made by the president," Yeltsin said. "The security service protects him from terrorists and does not interfere in economic matters, because that is none of its business," The Russian president recalled that he meets with V.S. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, each Tuesday. At these meetings the principled positions on reform questions are defined. Neither the vice premiers, the ministers, nor anyone in the president's structure can change these decisions, which are then enshrined in presidential edicts. Thus there are no questions pertaining to the reforms that are outside the purview of the president and the chairman of the government. "I firmly assure you that reform will continue to be developed and will only progress," Yeltsin said. He noted in particular the need for the reform of the banking system. "If I decided and then Chernomyrdin and I together decided to implement a tougher financial policy this year, we would do it," the Russian president noted. In this regard he recalled his veto on parliament's decision to raise the minimum wage. In stage two of privatization it will be necessary to transfer at least 80 percent of the economic potential into private ownership.

An Italian journalist put a question about the situation in Chechnya, asking whether the Russian president intended to meet Dzhokhar Dudayev. Yeltsin replied that he did "not intend to meet Dudayev because he is a bandit who must be tried." The Russian president stressed that D. Dudayev had annihilated a large number of citizens of the Chechen Republic, assembled a criminal world around him, and was trying to collect money from all over the world to buy arms and military hardware and then organize an outright rebellion in Russia. Boris Yeltsin pointed out that talks were currently being held and that they would be conducted more vigorously in the near future. These talks would be conducted with elders, leaders of rayons and adjacent cities, and so on. The Chechen Government was already functioning. The dates for elections to the Chechen parliament and for the presidency are being decided now. B.N. Yeltsin also said that it was necessary to begin preparing the treaty on the complete destruction of nuclear weapons in the world, which could be achieved in the first 10-15 years of the next century.

Lukin on Foreign Policy, Border Problems

MK1503090095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Mar 95 p 1, 2

[Interview with Vladimir Lukin by Mikhail Karpov, under the "Exclusive" rubric: "'We Have Found Ourselves in a Very Bad Geopolitical Situation.' Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the State Duma International Affairs Committee, Comments on Russian Federation Policy in the Far East and the West"—place, date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text]

[Karpov] Vladimir Petrovich, what trends in Russian foreign policy cause your greatest concern today, as chairman of the State Duma Committee for International Affairs?

[Lukin] Well, all trends do. We have found ourselves in a very bad geopolitical situation. Virtually none of our borders are secure. As a person who is for democracy, I

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am worried by the issue of democracy in Haiti, indeed. But the talk about it, I would say, is of an abstract nature. The security of the Russian borders is of a more immediate significance to me.

Thank God, we have, at last, concluded a treaty with Kazakhstan and Belarus on the joint protection of our borders. But all of this should be implemented. Nothing is clear beyond Kazakhstan—between Kazakhstan and Central Asia, up to Tajikistan. It makes this country, in fact, completely unprotected. There is no control whatsoever over the trafficking of drugs and weapons, or generally over gangsterism of all kinds. This is very dangerous—under such conditions, all conflicts arise, and all temptations are of a criminal nature.

Take the issue of Transcaucasia, which is directly linked with Chechnya and Russia. One can not understand anything regarding the border matters there, either. As for me, I have in fact a very high opinion of our border forces. They do everything they can. And, in my opinion, the situation there has markedly improved with the arrival of Andrey Nikolayev. Recently, I have been to the border with China—it is a quiet border, thank God. Unless our mighty local politicians turn it into a border of conflict. The border troops there, however, face a very serious situation, too—they are underpaid and are being disbanded, including very strong formations like aviation units. The border becomes symbolic. And this matter should not trifled with. So, this is what worries me most—and then Haiti.

[Karpov] By the way, speaking of the Chinese border: Immediately after Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Beijing—where he tried to persuade the Chinese partners that the position of Russia with respect to the agreement on border is inviolable—a delegation of parliamentarians went to the Far East to visit some parts of that border. Is there any discord in the actions of the executive and legislative powers?

[Lukin] No, there is no discord here. And Kozyrev also did not visit Beijing specially to discuss border issues alone. It was a scheduled visit of the foreign minister. Although, certainly, he had a talk with the Chinese colleagues about these matters, among others. As to our trip, it was connected with the hearings in the Federal Assembly on the problem of the Russian-Chinese border demarcation.

Those hearings were not the first. The problem is very sensitive. Because when a border is demarcated—especially such an important border for Russia and China in terms of their future relations—it is obviously a matter of exceptional significance. Unfortunately, however, it has given rise to, in my opinion, unwarranted emotional "projections."

[Karpov] On whose part?

[Lukin] The background of this story is as follows. In February 1991—after long negotiations that had continued for 30 years and were interrupted many times due to various reasons—including, unfortunately, shootings—the border agreement was finally concluded. The Chinese side had very serious territorial claims. The conclusion of the border agreement meant, in fact, the end of these territorial claims. in that global form in which they had been laid, and the acknowledgment of the fact that the 4,000-km border—with the exception of some small parts—should mainly be where it is now.

I think it was a very important victory for our diplomacy—both Soviet and Russian, since, although negotiations were held by Russian diplomats, one must not belittle also the role of Soviet diplomacy, as in February 1991 an all-USSR center still existed.

This agreement was reviewed in great detail by all relevant authorities, and was universally acknowledged as legitimate and very advantageous for Russia. It was sent for approval to the administrations of the border krays and oblasts of Russia, including the Maritime Administration, and no critical remarks were received.

This fact, as well as the awareness of an exceptional importance of the border issue, has prompted the Supreme Soviet of Russia—including myself, as I was then chairman of the international committee—after extensive discussions, to submit this agreement for ratification. And it was ratified by the Supreme Soviet almost unanimously. There were no votes "against," and only six deputies abstained.

The process of the actual demarcation of the border then started. It was decided that it would continue until the end of 1995. Two more years were to be allowed for the corresponding publishing activities. The entire process will be completed by signing a governmental—I emphasize, governmental—agreement. The guidelines for border demarcation have been ratified, and it is a matter of government now—not of the legislative power—to elaborate some of the problems, maps, and certain specific aspects in more detail.

Nevertheless, since there have been some new developments, we have decided to study this issue again—not from the viewpoint of its solution, but in order to investigate this matter and to find ways to ease the tension that has emerged recently.

[Karpov] What is its essence?

[Lukin] Of late, the Maritime Kray Administration—for the most part, new leaders, since the post of governor, formerly held by Vladimir Kuznetsov, was taken by Yevgeniy Nazdratenko—has started to express serious skepticism regarding the demarcation work that is being conducted by the governmental commission headed by Genrikh Kireyev, ambassador-at-large.

Specifically, first, the question of denouncing this agreement was raised. This is certainly beyond common sense, but nevertheless such a question was raised. Moreover, one Maritime deputy—clearly without any counteraction, to put it mildly, on the part of his administration—

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simply proposed to submit to the Duma a draft on the denunciation of that agreement.

Well, having met with complete nonacceptance of such a stand, the Maritime Administration has somewhat restrained its ardor—purely for tactical reasons—and declared that, of course, no denunciation is necessary, everything is fine, but the border must be where we say! Not as it will be agreed upon during our talks with the Chinese, but as we say. And they demand that the border be precisely where it is now.

In principle, I am not against this. I believe that I am probably known as an ambassador who, unlike many others, did not cede even one centimeter of Russian territory in America, in the most difficult time. Quite the contrary, I acquired some more property there—for instance, a consulate in New York City claimed by Ukraine as theirs. Therefore, I believe, I can be hardly suspected of having the intention to give up some tiny bits of our territory.

The problem, however, is to clarify which parts of the territory are ours and which are theirs. Where is it legitimately ours and where is it not?

There are three disputable questions. All of them relate not to thousands of square kilometers but to several hectares. On the whole, the disputed area is about 15 to 16 square kilometers. Certainly, nobody wishes to cede it, and nor do I—no less than anyone else.

But the problem is as follows: We have concluded and ratified the agreement. If we really are in possession of any serious documents showing that the border must be where it is now, to the nearest centimeter, we should certainly insist on that. The documents that the demarcation commission has reviewed, however, arouse doubts with respect to, for instance, the position of the border post—the so-called "character P"—in the Ussuri part of the border. There are serious grounds to believe that this "character P" is actually placed not where the map shows it should stand. The maps, which have been made in accordance with the Beijing agreement, are rather approximate. As to those places where the maps are not approximate—for instance, in Khabarovsk Kray, where Tarabarov and Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy islands are definitely ours—we did not and will not sign any agreement. They belong to us de facto, and I am against giving them up. But as regards those places where the border is uncertain, a compromise-based agreement should be reached.

Naturally, if such documents are found. We urge the Maritime Administration to find them. And if it is shown definitely that the territory is ours, it is obvious that we must stand up for that. If none of the sides has such definite documents, let us come to an agreement regarding these several hectares!— despite our unwillingness to give them up. Because the national Russian interests, on the other side of the scale, are too great.

These interests consist in the following: The border with China is longer than 4,000 km. In recent times, the balance of forces between Russia and China has changed drastically, and, unfortunately, not in our favor. Some 70 percent of our borders are poorly protected. We have problems with Japan. In the south, we have problems with Tajikistan, and so on and so forth. We have serious problems also within Russia itself and on its border with Transcaucasia. Regrettably, there are as-yet unsettled problems with Ukraine, and serious problems with the Baltic states. The only thing, then, that we are lacking now in order to build a complete patriotic self-image is to quarrel with China. Because of several hectares of land.

It should be also added, that all attempts to say that either the Federation Council Committee for International Affairs or the State Duma Committee for International Affairs positively advocate certain concessions in that respect are entirely groundless. The agreement has been ratified, and the actual demarcation of the border is not a matter for a parliament. It is the government, the demarcation commission, and the governmental commission that have to deal with this problem.

I wish to repeat—our stand is as follows: If within executive power bodies any serious arguments arise, suggesting that there is evidence proving that the border must be precisely where it is now, we shall applaud them; and, then, a governmental commission is to be set up to discuss this problem with our Chinese friends—who, by the way, do make concessions in certain issues. When the problem of common graves in the Khasan area was discussed, they moved the border in order to retain these graves in our territory. Therefore, one should continue a dialogue on the basis of perceived significance of the problem and of our real national interests rather than speculations on the probability of electing some head of administration for another term.

Second, I simply urge the president and the government to call the executive power to order with respect to this issue. Despite my great respect for the Federation components, I have to add: They certainly must take an active part in such matters, but these talks should not be in front of our neighbor and must not create problems. We need an order in the executive power. If pluralism prevails in the parliament, it is quite normal, and it is blameworthy when it does not—this is no democracy. But pluralism in the executive power bodies means complete disorder and chaos. It is especially dangerous when it entails serious international consequences.

Therefore, the main conclusion is—and, by the way, Mr. Nazdratenko has agreed with me on that matter, and I wish everything would end with this—Please, federal and Maritime authorities, come to an accord! But do so in meeting one another personally! We, parliamentarians, are ready to be present at this meeting as observers and advisers. After several meetings, do come to a common standpoint and follow it as representing Russia.

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And do not discredit the country, like now, when one power—in Moscow—says one thing, while another—in Maritime Kray—says something else. Everybody makes noise, and nobody hears anyone.

I must say that I do not understand the federal power: How can it stand such a scandal?

[Karpov] Let us move from the Far East to the West. Last week in Moscow there was a "troika" representing the European Union. What is your opinion on the prospects of partnership between Russia and the European Union?

[Lukin] The troika came to Moscow, in fact, with one aim—to announce that until the problem with Chechnya is settled by peaceful means there will be no temporary agreement between the European Union and the Russian Federation. This was not a surprise. I think that up to now the pressure of the Western governments on us has been measured out in doses. Since, at the same time, the IMF concluded an agreement on granting us a credit of over $6 billion, one is to understand that the governments of the West, I would say, attempt to exert a mild and balanced pressure in connection with the Chechen crisis.

I have repeated many times that this pressure would be increasing—although declarations have been made that economic cooperation with us will not be affected. I believe that this is not true, and it will come to that, unless the Chechen conflict is settled quickly, in one way or another. Unfortunately, I was right. I think that unless the Chechen conflict is settled by May, there will be many other troubles for us, both symbolic and quite material. Symbolic troubles are connected with the fact that the extent of the participation of Russia—the main "hero" of the victory in World War II—in the celebration of its anniversary will be too small, which we can certainly survive. After all, we can celebrate our victory among ourselves. But as to the material aspects, we shall have many more troubles than now. Because, in fact, one of the few victories for our rather poor foreign policy was the conclusion of the agreement on cooperation with the European Union—including concrete conditions facilitating our export, the agreement on science and technology, and arrangements regarding visa regulations. This is steak, not garnish; not sound and fury, but movement. This is precisely what pressure is being put on now.

Well, we can certainly cry and protest, but we can also understand the position of the West, too—this happens because Russia has promised the OSCE to behave in a certain way.

[Karpov] So, is the settlement of internal political problems in Russia a clue to the solution of its foreign policy problems?

[Lukin] Further pressure, unless we settle our internal matters ourselves, is inevitable. And, most importantly, if we fail to prove that we still continue to pursue the path of democratic development, I think, the consequence will be an acceleration of the process of NATO expansion. It is quite possible that this process will start with the admission of Poland—a country to which we are especially sensitive. Aid in certain areas, ones most important for us, will be reduced. The American Congress is already raising this question. An attempt will be made to oust us from those regions in which we still have a certain influence—for instance, from Yugoslavia—by stimulating and strengthening a Muslim state. We shall be encouraged, to a certain extent, to confront the Muslim factor in Central Asia. In other words: Leave Europe and get stuck in Asia—such is the strategy.

I think that to untie the Chechen knot as quickly as possible is in our own vital interests. We have been too slow in doing this. If we linger until the end of the spring, by that time we shall already have a classic lingering conflict, with all its international implications.

[Karpov] NATO's eastward expansion is practically inevitable. How, in your opinion, should Russia respond?

[Lukin] Russia should not make too much noise. Because making too much noise immediately implies that this is a weak spot and precisely the site where pressure should be put. Russia must lay down its definite conditions. There is no doubt that this is unacceptable for us. And the problem is not whether NATO is a good or bad organization. Being a practical person, I do not think in these terms at all. Any movement of a very strong military force toward our very weak borders and our very weak and vulnerable army is very bad for us now. Because this is a force. Whatever words its political leaders might use, this is a very strong force. And in every new situation this force will act in a definite fashion, irrespective of us and of our opinion. Period.

As to our response, we must not shout out loud. I have repeated many times that one should speak softly, but preferably carrying a very big stick. If one cries hysterically but has nothing in his pockets, it makes little sense.

One must say out loud that the OSCE agreement on the flank restrictions does not suit Russia. At present, Russia is ready to hold talks and to solve this problem somehow, by a concerted action. If, however, NATO gets closer to our borders, this question will lose its validity, and Russia will be free to arrange its military forces as it deems necessary.

That was the first point. Second, one should say clearly, openly, and plainly that, under these conditions, Russia must have serious nuclear guarantees for the foreseeable future—nuclear guarantees of its own. And this means that the START II treaty will have to be questioned, and that we will need to have such potential of guaranteed retaliatory strike which will be considered appropriate in a deteriorating environment. We shall have to take care of this, despite the scarcity of resources.

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Third, we shall have to take care—energetically, actively, and, I would say, in an enterprising way—of strengthening allied relations with the countries that are our immediate neighbors and which form a part of the post-Soviet space, especially westward. This includes Belarus, where the process has already started—and I am very happy about this. I believe that Ukraine will also find itself in an ambiguous position under this situation. To my mind, we have to explain to our Ukrainian neighbors and friends, in a sufficiently convincing way, that any talks about Western aid—whatever it might be—are but trifles as compared with the actual strategic situation, when they will find themselves outside the Western security system, despite all the fine words that might be spoken.

[Karpov] And may it happen that Ukraine will, after all, also be admitted to that security system, following Poland?

[Lukin] No, they will not invite Ukraine to follow Poland very quickly, because in the West there are serious disagreements as to the problem of NATO expansion. For instance, many military experts oppose this. They are practical people, and they realize that this means enormous expenses. Second, it means new major obligations that can not always be fulfilled—like in case, for instance, of a conflict between Romania and Hungary over Transylvania. This could get NATO involved into such a commotion that it would be hard to get out of it. At the same time, NATO has failed to demonstrate its efficacy, for instance, in Yugoslavia, and generally in similar lingering "swampy" military conflicts.

In addition, at least 16 different parliaments have to endorse all this. Some of them are not too enthusiastic about it. And I even do not quite understand how the American Republicans—who claim that NATO should be expanded—are going to justify a rapid growth of U.S. military obligations, since they tend to be more oriented to solving the internal policy problems.

That is why we must not scream and shout loudly. We need not define clear-cut conditions—whether the West wants to create the common security system for Europe or wishes to set up certain systems there that could perhaps be not rigidly confrontational but nevertheless separated from one another. This is also potentially dangerous. We need, at last, to create a reliable, serious, and well-controlled mechanism for the adoption and realization of foreign policy decisions. But, well, how is it possible that one high-ranking official says that we seem to be not against Poland's joining NATO, while another declares, at the same time, that we are against this? This creates a situation of chaos. Russia is a serious country, indeed, and it must not speak in five voices. It must speak in one voice! People should be able to understand us. What is happening now, however, creates the image of a "cloud in trousers" [a poem by Mayakovskiy]—if only the trousers have not yet fallen down.

Presidential Edict Seen Strengthening Kozyrev's Position

MK1703082095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Karpov under the "Diplomacy" rubric: "False Alarm: The President Will Continue To Control the Foreign Ministry, and the Foreign Ministry Will Still Control All Foreign Policy Matters"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After Boris Yeltsin's meeting with the Russian Foreign Ministry leadership, all rumors regarding the probable emergence of some new institution for foreign policy coordination were dispelled. It will be recalled, however, that just recently—on 16 February, the day when the president presented his message to the parliament—it seemed that these rumors could have been well grounded. Boris Yeltsin said then that "effective implementation of Russian foreign policy requires that a clear-cut mechanism of interagency coordination of activities in that area be set up at the president's office." After meeting with Foreign Ministry staffers, however, the president signed the edict, saying that, from now on, the Foreign Ministry itself is to serve as such a mechanism.

There is an atmosphere of "deep satisfaction" [reference to an expression commonly used by Brezhnev] at Smolenskaya Square [Foreign Ministry]. Henceforth—in accordance with the Statute on the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs—Kozyrev, who used to assure people that Russia is pursuing only one foreign policy, i.e., that of the president, will be controlled by Yeltsin himself. Deputy ministers also are to be appointed by the president. Thus, for one more time, another rumor was also dispelled—that on the imminent replacement of the Russian diplomacy head.

Andrey Kozyrev's position, in this connection, has obviously been fortified; it acquired, for sure, the strength of concrete, if not that of granite. To criticize him now means to criticize directly Yeltsin himself, which is fraught with serious troubles for many authorities.

The Kremlin meeting and the presidential edict signify one more thing: One should not expect any cardinal changes in Russian foreign policy—including the most controversial of its aspects, like in connection with Iraq.

It remains unclear in what manner the Foreign Ministry will coordinate the activities of the executive power federal bodies. The essential prerequisites for this, however, have been provided in the presidential edict in the form of the right to make decisions of a normative character. In addition, the Foreign Ministry has been tasked with monitoring their implementation.

Thus, the alarm appeared to be false: The Foreign Ministry still remains the leading institution in the field of foreign policy, and Kozyrev's position at Smolenskaya Square has even been strengthened. What remains to be

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done now is only to look forward to further impressive victories for Russian diplomacy.

Kozyrev in Paris To Discuss European Security

LD1903090395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0847 GMT 19 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 19 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left for Paris on Sunday to attend a two-day concluding conference on a European stability pact.

The conference, opening on Monday, is expected to adopt a political declaration, according to which the stability pact and bilateral agreements included in its roll shall be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

After visiting Paris, Kozyrev will go to Geneva, for a regular working meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on March 22-23. The Russian minister is planning to carry on the dialogue with Mr Christopher on matters connected with transforming European security structures.

On March 24 the Russian foreign minister will pay a brief visit to Budapest for talks with his Hungarian counterpart, Laszlo Kovacs. The talks are expected to deal, in particular, with cooperation within the framework of the OSCE which is now presided over by Hungary.

Kozyrev Arrival Reported

LD1903140095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 19 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Igor Shegolev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris March 19 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has arrived in Paris to attend a two-day concluding conference on a European stability pact. The conference opens here on Monday.

The European stability pact will constitute a political declaration and a compendium of bilateral agreements between Central and Eastern European countries aimed at peacefully settling contentious issues and building goodneighbourly relations between them.

A number of Russia's agreements with Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia will be a component of the pact. The implementation of the agreements will be monitored by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

After visiting the French capital, Kozyrev will go to Geneva where he will hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on March 22-23.

Duma Vice Speaker, Ukrainian Envoy Discuss Crimea Situation

LD1803154995 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, has said that the decision on the Crimean question was brought about by the elections to local power bodies that were planned for 29 April. Moroz conceded that not everyone appraised the documents that were adopted in the same light, but he said that the Crimean leadership would prefer that the power bodies of the Crimea and Ukraine acted in coordination.

We have just received a report of a meeting between Mikhail Mityukov, first deputy chairman of the State Duma, and Uladzimir Fedorov, Ukraine's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Russian Federation. The meeting took place at the ambassador's request. He commented on the latest decision of the Ukrainian Supreme Council in relation to the Crimea and said that the decisions were made after careful study of the question in the Ukrainian parliament. In the opinion of the majority of deputies, the status of the Crimean Republic and the office of president contradicted the Ukrainian Constitution. Moreover, the parliamentarians had information about violations in the Crimea of legislation on land privatization and a number of other laws. The ambassador stressed that Crimea would preserve its status as an autonomous entity, and its Supreme Council and government would continue to operate.

Deputy State Duma Speaker Mityukov said that the decision of the Ukrainian parliamentarians is Ukraine's internal affair, but there was no point in hiding the fact that Russia has a broad range of interests in the Crimean peninsula. However, we have and will continue to respect the Ukraine's territorial integrity and the existing borders, Mityukov said.

He stressed the need for the speediest settlement of the problems of the Black Sea Fleet and expressed the hope that the Ukrainian parliament's decisions and actions that might follow this would not influence the coming visit by the Russian president to Ukraine.

Duma Official Receives Ukrainian Special Envoy

LD1803192895 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mikhail Mityukov, first deputy chairman of the Russian State Duma, today received Vladimir Fedorov, Ukrainian special envoy and ambassador to Russia, at his request. The Ukrainian ambassador underlined that Crimea will remain an autonomy. Its first Supreme Council and the government were still operating.

For his part, Mityukov said that the decision taken by the Ukrainian parliament is Ukraine's internal affair. He

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underlined that Russia respects and will continue to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Shakhray, Duma Deputy Comment on Crimean Crisis

LD1803225695 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2052 GMT 18 Mar 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt]

[Unidentified correspondent] Deputies in the Crimean parliament, which held an emergency session today, finished their work late in the evening. [passage omitted] This is how they interpret the reasons for the Crimean crisis in Moscow:

[Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Ties with Compatriots] "Kiev is worried now that there is agreement between the president and the Crimean Supreme Soviet. At the beginning of the week, the unity of the 'Russia' bloc, which brought the president and most deputies in the Supreme Soviet to power, was restored. It turns out that this is what our colleagues in Ukraine had feared most."

[Correspondent] The process of privatizing property has been gathering momentum in Ukraine recently and Crimea obviously has some of the more desirable property. Many bodies are ready to fight for it, using any methods. It should also not be forgotten that there is much Russian property in Ukraine, including sanatoriums and holiday complexes.

Conscious of the difficulty of the situation, Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray says that President Boris Yeltsin should postpone his planned visit to Ukraine.

[Shakhray] "I think this visit is not possible now, that's my personal opinion. The visit should be postponed."

[Correspondent] Other Russian politicians have been advised to refrain from contacts with Ukraine.

[Zatulin] "I think that if Oleg Nikolayovich Soskovets had any respect for himself he would drop out of this demonstrative visit."

[Correspondent] Incidentally, at the last plenary sitting, the State Duma instructed Konstantin Zatulin to meet the Ukrainian ambassador.

[Zatulin] "The Ukrainian ambassador, whom I was instructed to contact by Friday's plenary sitting, refused to meet me. He obviously has his own contacts in the State Duma, which he uses."

[Correspondent] The office of Mikhail Mityukov, deputy chairman of the State Duma, is one of these contacts. He straight away called on people not to interfere in Ukraine's internal affairs. There is obviously going to be some hot debate about this issue by the Duma council on Monday, and Boris Yeltsin will most probably have to make a statement. According to the latest information, there were no incidents in Crimea today, but Ukrainian Deputy Interior Minister Valeriy Chernyshov said that all necessary measures will be taken if public order is disrupted.

Soskovets To Iron Out Joint Documents in Ukraine

LD2003073495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0723 GMT 20 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 20 TASS—Russian First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets will go to Kiev on Monday where he, together with his Ukrainian counterpart Yevgeniy Marchuk, will iron out documents over the next two days, which are being prepared for the coming Yeltsin-Kuchma summit.

The sides have already prepared for signing over 20 interstate documents for the summit meeting which is planned to be held in Kiev late in March. They include agreements on expansion of cooperation between Russian and Ukrainian border regions, a passage regime, duel taxation, a free trade regime and nuclear fuel for Ukrainian power stations.

A large-scale treaty of friendship and cooperation is ready for 90 percent. The item on duel citizenship remains the stumbling block in the treaty.

According to an appraisal by Soskovets who is responsible for the preparation of the Russian president's visit to Kiev, the two countries differ, for the time being, on the division of the Black Sea Fleet and restructuring of the Ukrainian debt.

During a recent working trip by Soskovets to Kiev, Ukrainian First Vice-Premier Yevgeniy Marchuk, speaking on behalf of the Ukrainian side, agreed that the Russian Black Sea Fleet should be based in Sevastopol.

Besides, Ukraine expressed agreement with the use by Russia, on a contractual basis, of several other military facilities. These understandings were recorded in a protocol on settling Black Sea Fleet problems.

The document is based on earlier understandings reached at talks between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kuchma. As for Ukraine's debt to Russia for energy carriers, Russian experts point to the absence of adequate market structures in Ukraine for the use of Russian energy carriers as one of the main reasons for difficulties in this field.

It is planned that during the coming consultations, Soskovets and the Ukrainian prime minister will sign an

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agreement on basic principles of establishing Russian-Ukrainian financial groups as well as a document on forming "a transnational aluminium compamny" on their basis.

Soskovets To Visit Ukraine Despite Crimea Crisis

LD2003083095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0743 GMT 20 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 20 ITAR-TASS—Despite the current conflict between Kiev and Simferopol resulting from the abolition of the Crimea's pro-Russian Constitution, parliament and presidency by the Ukrainian parliament, Russia's First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets will proceed with his visit to Ukraine as planned, sources in the staff of the first deputy chairman of the government of Russia told ITAR-TASS today.

Earlier, Chairman of the State Duma Committee for the Affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States Konstantin Zatulin called on the first vice-premier to call off his trip to Kiev following the decision of Ukrainian authorities on Crimea's government.

Oleg Soskovets' trip to Kiev focuses on preparations for the Russian-Ukrainian summit scheduled for the end of March. Oleg Soskovets and his Ukrainian colleague Yevgeniy Marchuk are expected to spend two days finalising the documents due to be signed in the course of the summit.

Diplomat on Europarliament's 'High-handedness' on Chechnya

LD1703200695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 17 Mar 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 17 (Interfax)—A senior Russian diplomat says there are overtones of high-handedness in a recent resolution on Chechnya adopted by the European Parliament.

In a Friday interview with Interfax, he pointed to the resolution's call on the State Duma (lower house of Russian parliament) to reverse its decision on dismissing Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev. It also sets respect for human rights violated by the Russian army as a condition for closer ties with Moscow.

"We do not object to the substance of the resolution, given that we want to wind up the military campaign in Chechnya as soon as possible. But the tone of the resolution is not acceptable for dialogue with a great power such as Russia certainly is", he said.

The diplomat said Moscow's reaction would follow soon enough, possibly on Monday. "A team of Euro MPs is now in Moscow and our verbal response may come at one of the meetings with them", he said.

Joint Military Exercise With Armenia Scheduled For 23 March

LD1703143995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1235 GMT 17 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan March 17 TASS—The first joint Russian-Armenian military exercise will be held on March 23 in the Armavir region, in the southwest of Armenia, Armenia's Minister of State Vazgen Sarkisyan said in his radio address today.

According to Sarkisyan, the military exercise will be held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the victory over nazism. Colonel General Fedor Reut, head of the Russian army group in the Transcaucasian region, will command the military exercise. Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev will inspect preparations for it during his visit to Armenia on March 22 to 24, the Armenian minister of state said.

Stockholm Nagorno-Karabakh Talks Postponed

LD1803113195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1114 GMT 18 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 18 TASS—Talks between the parties in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and a meeting of the Minsk Conference of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) scheduled for March 20-24 in Stockholm have been put off.

The talks were postponed because "no conditions have been created to lead to constructive talks," says a statement from OSCE Minsk Conference co-chairmen, who are delegates of Russia and Sweden.

The statement voices regret that the co-chairmen had to pass this decision at the time when a truce had lasted for 10 months in the region and the peace efforts should have been built up.

The Minsk Conference co-chairmen said they would take urgent measures to keep the peace process on the track. They called for a more compromising stance of the conflicting parties on key issues and promised to visit the region soon for consultations with the parties.

Grachev Departs on Tour of Georgia, Armenia

LD2003095295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0946 GMT 20 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 20 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev set out on a tour of Georgia and Armenia on Monday [20 March].

The minister left Moscow by air at 11.00 Moscow time (08.00 GMT) today for Tbilisi where he will meet with

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Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and discuss matters concerning military cooperation between the two countries and problems of settling conflicts on the territory of the republic.

After visiting Georgia, Grachev is to go to Yerevan on March 22 to meet with Armenian leaders and then watch joint Russo-Armenian military exercises which are to be held in the republic's south- west.

'Very Busy' Chernomyrdin Cancels Trip to Bulgaria

LD1703211895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 17 (Interfax)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin decided to put off his official visit to Bulgaria "due to his being very busy," Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolay Afanasyevskiy told Interfax Friday.

According to Afanasyevskiy, "the question is not a long delay of Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit. I believe it will be held very soon."

Afanasyevskiy remarked that the reason for the postponement was "purely practical, the prime minister's being enormously busy with our internal affairs."

Afanasyevskiy said he will hold consultations with the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry leadership in Sofia next Monday and Tuesday. The consultations were earlier "planned to comprise one of the elements of the preparation of Chernomyrdin's visit," he emphasized.

The high-ranking diplomat said "these will be the first bilateral diplomatic consultations on such a level" since a new government was formed in Bulgaria last December.

The consultations will focus on "European issues, including cooperation in the design of a new model for security and stability in Europe, strengthening the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] and relations with other European institutions."

Afanasyevskiy said he will discuss the situation in the Balkans and "political aspects of bilateral relations" with his Bulgarian colleagues.

Deputy Atomic Energy Minister on Iran Reactor Contract

MK1503151095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No 17, 12-19 Mar 95 (Signed to press 14 Mar) p 12

[Interview with Yevgeniy Reshetnikov, deputy atomic energy minister, by Andrey Kolesnikov under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "Is Russia Losing a Nuclear War?"—place, date not given; first passage is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] In early January Russia signed a contract with Iran on the construction of a nuclear reactor on the territory of that country. This news has drawn a stormy reaction from the United States. Russian Deputy Atomic Energy Minister Yevgeniy Reshetnikov talks about it in a conversation with MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI correspondent Andrey Kolesnikov.

[Reshetnikov] Our talks with Iran began in 1992. Upon receiving an offer to build a nuclear power plant in northern Iran, we checked out whether this country is an IAEA member and whether it has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). The IAEA confirmed that the Iranians are not engaged in the creation of nuclear weapons, and as for the NPT, Iran joined it back in 1968 (parliament ratified this decision in 1970).

Meanwhile, the Americans distributed information among IAEA members at the time that a nuclear center was operating in a mountainous area of Iran. They cited specific coordinates. We requested the Iranians that they show this center to us. They did. It turned out to be a kind of resort. We, together with IAEA experts, searched every corner in all basements down on our knees, but did not find anything. Later, the Americans themselves admitted that they were mistaken.

On 25 April 1992 an intergovernment agreement on the construction of a nuclear power plant was signed. The Russian side made it clear that any cooperation would be possible only if the object of the contract is fully placed under IAEA control. Iran did not and does not have any objections. The Iranians asked us to find a site for a nuclear power plant on the Caspian Sea shore, near the city of Gorgan. We could not find such a site there and suggested that the plant be moved to the south, to the city of Bushehr, on the Persian Gulf coast. It was decided to build two units with a capacity of 440 megawatts each.

Then the leadership of the Iranian parliament changed, and new people revised the conditions of the project. We were offered to finish the construction of a unit that the Germans had been building for five years. This was 15 years ago; the Germans invested 5.1 billion marks in the construction, but when a revolution occurred in Iran, they had to cancel the contract under U.S. pressure. Iran went to the International Court of Justice in The Hague and won the lawsuit, but the Germans have not changed their stance—they are not even paying a penalty. Upon reflection we concluded that we could well fit our one unit (similar to the fourth power unit at the Balakovskaya nuclear power plant) within the German contours. We frankly wrote to the Germans that we were going to do that, and offered cooperation. They wavered back and forth for some time and finally declined the offer: "We cannot let our partners down." It was clear to us whom they meant.

Throughout 1994 we carried out preparatory work under the contract, which was signed in early 1995.

[Kolesnikov] How much will the Russian side be paid under the contract once work is completed?

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[Reshetnikov] A total of $780 million. In addition, the Iranian side has just proposed that we take over another part of the work, primarily construction work, which will make another $150 million. Currently, about 200 of our specialists work in Iran examining building structures. This work costs $20 million; it will be completed by the end of 1995. After that the contract will go into force.

[Kolesnikov] What do you think about the storm of protests that broke out in the West in connection with this contract?

[Reshetnikov] The Americans are putting on a show, to put it mildly, when they say that Russia has decided to put nuclear weapons in Iran's hand.

The enrichment of uranium at a nuclear reactor of this type is 3.5 percent: this can be read in any booklet on nuclear power.

The actual reason for this storm is the ruthless fight with no holds barred on the world nuclear power market. For instance, we are trying to work in India, to hold talks, which were fairly successful last year. The Americans pay lip service to their resolute opposition to nuclear cooperation with countries that have not signed the NPT, particularly with India. Suddenly we learn that three weeks ago a large American delegation visited India and held successful talks on the use of nuclear power.

We were also surprised by the story of Pakistan, whose nuclear program the nuclear powers agreed to block some time ago. (Two Canadian-made "Candu"-type power units are in operation in Pakistan, however). Well, if there is a blockade, why not. so we have not maintained any ties with Pakistan. Quite recently it turned out, however, that the Pakistani nuclear center is equipped with up-to- date American computing technology. I can talk on and on about our naivete.

[Kolesnikov] Is the problem limited to naivete alone?

[Reshetnikov] Currently our Foreign Ministry does not allow us to deal with Pakistan. It asserts that Pakistan has not joined the NPT. But Pakistan says: the facility you are going to build for us will be placed under IAEA control, so there will be no reason to suspect it of catering to a military program. That same U.S. legislation has a clause authorizing such operations.

Our Foreign Ministry still keeps insisting: you may not go there all the same. But if we don't, others will. The Chinese, with the French standing behind them with their technologies, have long offered their services to Pakistan. And Russia is going to be left out in the cold once again.

[Kolesnikov] How much could Russia earn from this project?

[Reshetnikov] We could earn at least $1.8-2 billion. Pakistan has repeatedly turned to us. We have the support of the Russian Economy Ministry and other agencies, but the Foreign Ministry is thwarting all our efforts. As a matter of fact, Russia was not the only one participating in the Iraqi nuclear program, which elicited so many fears some time ago; Germany, France, Britain, and the United States were also there. We built only one research reactor for Iraq, which was immediately placed under IAEA control, and stopped for political reasons only to find out that these are nonexistent for Western countries or their firms.

[Kolesnikov] What has Russia actually retained on the world nuclear industry market?

[Reshetnikov] We continue cooperating with Finland, Hungary, Bulgaria—we mostly supply fuel to them and take away spent fuel. We are still working in China.

But shortly we may lose whatever little we still have, as we lost North Korea, where after Kim Il-song's death our light-water reactors (precisely the same that we will be supplying to Iran) will now be replaced—with U.S. assistance—also with light-water reactors, only South Korean-made.

I recall Mr. Golucci, the U.S. President's representative on nuclear matters, coming to Russia; we asked him why the United States is so inconsistent in its stance on Korea, among other things. "He who pays the piper calls the tune," he smiled.

Mamedov, Lukin See Reactor Sale No 'Danger' to U.S.

LD1703215895 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Mar 95

[Petr Orlov video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The U.S. Senate has urged President Clinton to freeze all cooperation with Russia which involves the ministries for atomic energy and for power engineering, until Russia renounces the idea of selling an industrial nuclear reactor to Iran. [passage omitted] The mistrust of Teheran is so overpowering that Washington is using every opportunity to put Iran down, and to do the same to Russia as well, under the excuse that Iran represents a common threat.

Russian representatives, Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov and head of Duma Foreign Policy Committee Vladimir Lukin, are constantly proving to their counterparts in the State Department and in the Senate that there is no great danger from Russia selling the nuclear reactor to Iran.

[Lukin] Not a single international law is being breached.

Now, however, when Clinton has clearly shown that the desire to punish Iran is even stronger than the interests of American companies, it will be far more difficult for Russia to protect a profitable contract to construct the light hydrogen industrial reactor. Andrey Kozyrev, who is due to meet State Secretary Christopher in Geneva on Tuesday, will have to explain. Washington has made it

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clear that the nuclear issue will be one of the focal points of the meeting, along with Chechnya, NATO expansion, and creation of an antimissile defense system—another potential bone of contention between Russia and the United States.

U.S. Said To Have 'Double Standards' on Trade

MM1703130595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Konstantin Eggert: "Washington Gives Moscow Trump Card in Dispute Over Double Standards"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Bill Clinton has used his extensive powers of authority to announce his intention to issue a bill effectively canceling one of the most scandalous deals of the year, namely the U.S. company Conoco's agreement with the Iranian state oil company to explore fields on the Gulf shelf.

The contract, estimated to be worth $1 billion, contravenes Washington's avowed objective of doing its utmost to economically weaken a regime which, not without reason, is accused of massive violations of human rights and of backing fundamentalist terrorist groups.

Conoco, a subdivision of Du Pont De Nemours, has already announced that it will abide by Clinton's decision. However, the White House's position on Iran is by no means unequivocal. Officially U.S. companies do not have the right to do business with Iranian partners. However, that only applies to firms situated directly on U.S. territory. Their subsidiaries abroad can trade quite freely with representatives of a country which is, to use Secretary of State Warren Christopher's figurative expression, "outlawed."

The fruits of this kind of duplicity are evident: According to the selfsame State Department, the Americans account for around one- fourth of Iranian oil procurements, with extraction totaling 2.5 million barrels a day. The system is simple: Crude oil is exported to third countries' refineries and then finished gasoline is imported to the United States quite legally. The authorities shut their eyes to this; what is more, some administration spokesmen have already said that Conoco has only come under fire because its technological development may raise the Iranians to a fundamentally new quantitative and qualitative level of oil extraction and substantially increase Tehran's currency earnings.

Officially, annual U.S.-Iranian commodity turnover totaled a negligible $50 million. In actual fact, according to diplomatic sources, annual direct and indirect commodity turnover between the United States and Iran verges on $5 billion, of which the oil business accounts for $3.5-4 billion. This means that Washington has become the number one trading partner of a regime that still calls the United States the "Great Satan."

The Americans' equivocal position has repeatedly elicited serious objections from the Europeans, primarily Germany—whose commodity turnover with Iran stood at $4-4.5 billion—and France (around $2 billion). These states, along with Japan, are seeking to galvanize Iran's economy not from financial considerations but through grim necessity: Tehran is a chronic debtor (the country's total foreign debt has topped $30 billion) and it must therefore be helped to repay at least some of the money. The Europeans now have an opportunity to exploit Clinton's strictly political decision: It is thought that the Conoco contract will go to the French firm Total.

For Russia, the machinations over Iranian oil mean another trump card in their discussion with the Americans on double standards in politics: As you know, Washington objects most strongly to the recent contract concluded by the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy to complete the construction of a nuclear reactor in Bushehr and to the attempts to develop military-technical cooperation. However, Tehran is also in Moscow's debt, although not to a very large extent: just over $500 million. "But for us even that amount is significant"—that argument will undoubtedly be heard several times during the conversations between our Foreign Ministry's representatives and their State Department colleagues.

Moscow Upbeat on Iraq's Implementation of UN Demands

LD1503191695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 15 Mar 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 15 (Interfax)—Moscow sees significant progress in Iraq's implementation of the basic demands of the UN Security Council.

Russia is in favor of the world community adequately reacting to Baghdad's positive moves, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing in Moscow today, when commenting on the recent decision of the UN Security Council not to alter the present format of sanctions against Iraq.

Karasin said Chairman of the UN Special Commission for Disarming Iraq Rolf Ekeus had confirmed constructive cooperation between Baghdad and the UN commission on monitoring Iraqi military programs.

Karasin said the monitoring system would be a reliable guarantee of Iraq not restoring its store of weapons of mass destruction.

Karasin said Moscow was in favor of Iraq carrying out all UN Security Council resolutions on a post-crisis settlement in the Persian Gulf region.

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Zotov Appointed 'Special Envoy' on Yugoslav Crisis

LD1703162995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 17 (Interfax)—President Yeltsin has appointed ambassador-at-large Aleksandr Zotov his special envoy on settling the crisis in former Yugoslavia, the president's press service announced Friday.

Earlier this post was held by Vitaliy Churkin who is currently Russia's ambassador in Belgium.

Zotov is also Russia's representative in the international contact group on settling the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnian Serbs Arrest Russian Military Observer

LD1903143395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1411 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 19 Mar—Major Aleksey Nikolayenko, a Russian military observer of the UN peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia, was today detained by Bosnian Serbs near Sarajevo. The reasons for the arrest of the Russian officer, who is on an international mission, are not known.

The Serbian side decided to detain the Russian military observer in spite of the fact that has a diplomatic passport and was not carrying personal weapons. UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] representatives have protested the Bosnian Serbs' action.

Military Observer Still Held in Sarajevo

LD2003120395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1149 GMT 20 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb March 20 TASS—Russian Major Aleksey Nikolenko, who serves as a military observer among the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia is still kept in custody at a Serb police station at Ilidza (a district of Sarajevo). The Russian officer was arrested by Bosnian Serbs at one of checkpoints near the Bosnian capital on Saturday.

Way back last year, when NATO aircraft bombed Serbian positions, Nikolenko and his fellow observers were declared personae non grata by Serbian authorities, Lieutenant-Colonel Boris Rakitin, chief of the UNPROFOR's civilian police, told ITAR-TASS in a telephone interview on Monday.

The major who was black-listed by the Serbs and who arrived in Sarajevo from Tuzla was arrested despite the fact that he carried a diplomatic passport just like all the other U.N. military observers.

Nikolenko's fellow countrymen from among the peacekeeping contingent have already contacted him. Rakitin believes that Aleksey is likely to be released later on Monday.

UNPROFOR Protests Arrest

LD2003121295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1145 GMT 20 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent ivan Ivanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade March 20—The command of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) on Monday lodged a resolute protest at the arrest of an international observer, Russian Major Aleksandr Nikolenko, in the area of Sarajevo by the Bosnian Serbs on Saturday.

"UNPROFOR leaders intend to take all necessary measures to secure immediate release of the Russian observer," Yuriy Chizhik, press spokesman at the Belgrade headquarters of the UNPROFOR, told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

Major Nikolenko is now kept in custody at a police station Sarajevo's Ilidza District controlled by the Bosnian Serbs.

According to information which has not been officially confirmed so far, Major Nikolenko was arrested at about midday on Saturday on a road leading from Brcko when he was returning to Sarajevo in a car together with another international observer, a Swede. At one of checkpoints the Russian major was arrested while his colleague was let go. The Russian serviceman had diplomatic status and carried a Russian diplomatic passport with him. Like other international observers in Bosnia, he was unarmed.

The Serbian side accuses the Russian serviceman of "deliberately passing information of military nature to the other side" while performing his international mission in the area of Brcko.

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Political Issues

Poll Reveals Yeltsin, Zhirinovskiy 'Most Mistrusted'

LD1703144995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1205 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 17 (Interfax)—As few as 14 percent of Russian citizens trust Boris Yeltsin as a political leader, the All-Russian Public Opinion Study Center, which questioned 1,600 urban respondents a few days ago, reports.

The number of those who trust Yeltsin has more than halved since last September when he was supported by 31 percent of Russian citizens.

This March his mistrust rating proved the highest, 78 percent, a 20 percent increase on the September figure. Yeltsin is followed in the list of most mistrusted leaders by the Liberal Democratic leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, 74 percent (71 percent last September) and Yegor Gaydar, 68 percent (62 percent).

The most trusted political figure is Grigoriy Yavlinskiy (Yabloko party). As many as 37 percent said they trusted him as a political figure. He is the only political leader whose rating has not fallen in six months.

He is followed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, trusted by 18 percent (29 percent) and Zhirinovskiy whose political line is supported by 12 percent.

Chernomyrdin, Rybkin Discuss Duma-Government Cooperation

LD1703144795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1237 GMT 17 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 17 TASS—Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and Chairman of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin had a meeting on Thursday, at which they discussed cooperation of the Russian Government and the State Duma in working out the codes, included in the Russian legislation, and drafting a 1996 budget, Rybkin told ITAR-TASS today.

According to Rybkin, he told the prime minister that the State Duma and the Government should draft the 1996 budget, taking into account the new tax, land, water, air, penal and criminal-procedure codes, as well as the code of laws on labor relations. In his opinion, the 1996 draft budget should be discussed by the Duma on the basis of the normative acts, which have already been adopted or will be adopted by the Duma in the near future and will come into force on January 1, 1996.

Aside from it, Rybkin called the attention of Chernomyrdin to the fact that, according to the law currently in effect, the Government should submit a draft budget for the next year in May of the previous year. The State Duma chairman said in this connection that, most probably, the Duma will not be able to adopt all the new codes before May. However, it may adopt the tax code by mid-summer, which will come into force on January 1, 1996. After the adoption of the tax code, the Duma may start in summer the discussion of the draft budget for the next year, Rybkin believes.

When discussing the drafting of the 1996 budget with Chernomyrdin, Rybkin pointed out that the budget committees of the State Duma and the Federation Council, as well as the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank, the Ministry of Economy and a group of advisers to the president on economic affairs should start without delay the work on the financial plan of the country for the next year.

Grachev Says Gromov Dismissed by Presidential Decree

LD1703211195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Mar 17 (Interfax)—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told Interfax that his deputy Colonel-General Boris Gromov had been dismissed from this post by a presidential decree on March 16.

Grachev said Gromov remained the Russian Foreign Ministry's main military expert at the rank of a deputy minister.

Grachev explained such a decision by saying that all five posts of deputy defense minister had already been taken under the new personnel structure.

In accordance with the Russian president's decree, Colonel-General Boris Gromov will work under the Foreign Ministry. He will have ten employees in his apparatus.

Presidential Council Member Pain Interviewed

954F1677A Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No 9, 2-8 Mar 95 p 8

[Interview with Emil Pain, member of the Presidential Council, head of the interethnic relations group of the Russian Federation President's Analytic Center, by OBSHCHAYA GAZETA correspondent Yelena Dikun: "An Adviser Whose Advice Is Not Sought"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dikun] Since time immemorial the Russian tradition has been to shift all responsibility from the sovereign to the sovereign's advisers. If he makes a wrong step, it means that these wicked men gave him such advice. Are you aware that you are identified with the authority and are held responsible for all its actions?

[Pain] Yes, I understand this paradox. Because some of the people on the presidential staff are visible, they appear to be influential, which is not always the case. I have just been on a business trip to Chechnya, and the

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only thing that pleased me on this trip was that I am acceptable to different circles of Chechen society, including the ideological "Dudayevites." But this is because they consider me not a statesman but "a man on television." They know me from "Vesti," "Itogi," and other television programs.

Of course, by virtue of working on the presidential staff, I am in some way part of the establishment. But first, deep inside I still cannot get used to it; and second, we have a rather strange situation that does not exist in any normal society. On the one hand, it is the unclear status and uncertain functions of many structures; and on the other—the absence of a normal parliament. All of this makes political decisionmaking unpredictable. For instance, I have no idea who made the decision on Chechnya, and how.

[Dikun] Are you saying that for you, a presidential staff member, sending troops to Chechnya was a total surprise?

[Pain] To the same extent as it was for you. That is, I followed the press, knew what was happening there, and felt some build-up, charge-up of the situation; but whether sending troops was a consciously calculated act or the initial plan was an intimidation action, I still do not know.

[Dikun] So in fact it was not even considered necessary to inform you of the beginning of the operation?

[Pain] I cannot say that it was necessarily required that I be informed. Frankly, I do not really know what my functions are in the area of political decisionmaking. I only know my "technical" duties. I get all sorts of papers marked "Urgent!" which require that I evaluate and analyze a particular proposal. What will happen to this analysis next, and how it will be used in decisionmaking, that I do not know.

Sometimes, though, I have a feeling that I do have some indirect influence of political decisionmaking. For instance, I consider among my achievements a certain fragment in Yeltsin's speech in Georgia, where your humble servant wrote in—and nobody took out—a phrase that Russia does not deny part of the responsibility for the development of events in Abkhazia. This statement had a tremendous effect in Georgia.

Many of my proposals and recommendations, however, have indeed been ignored and gone unnoticed. But there is a certain consolation prize—some people in the president's service permit themselves to publicly disagree with some of his statements. I am not the first and far from the greatest dissident in this respect. Take, for instance, Sergey Kovalev and Ella Pamfilova, who openly criticize the president's policy but are still in his service. Of course, this is an abnormal situation. I personally by nature am not a dissident and never have been. I cannot say that I categorically disagree with the president's entire course. Moreover, I still hope that my voice still will have enough weight to influence some things. There have been instances, after all....

[Dikun] What grounds do you have today for such optimism? Have any hints to this effect been made to you?

[Pain] It is not the hints—it is my analysis of the situation. As long as the authorities were confident that the Chechen problem could be resolved by tanks and aviation, all attempts to offer a different option were doomed. But today it is already obvious from many indicators that it is unthinkable to continue a hard military course, which means that one way or the other a search for political decisions will begin.

[Dikun] But still, it is an ambiguous situation: People from the president's entourage openly disagree with his actions, but this does not keep them from being paid out of the Kremlin treasury.

[Pain] The situation is indeed ambiguous and psychologically uncomfortable. But my salary is paid by the taxpayers, not the president. This changes things somewhat and gives me an excuse. If society pays me, and if I can do some good for this society, I have to try to do it.

I always realized that people who hold rallies at Pushkin Square have no influence on events. Even with the uncertainty of my status, I have immeasurably more levers of influence. Although I have to admit that it hurts your ego—to impose yourself as an adviser. Nevertheless, I will repeat: This has to be done, because currently we are in a situation of a crossroad, of a road dividing. If I manage to do something good, then in combination with past small achievements it would seem that my being in this job has not been a waste. After that I can leave.

[Dikun] But you already said not too long ago that you were leaving....

[Pain] I did in fact write a letter of resignation then—this was a reaction to public opinion, an emotional blow-up; after rational consideration, I decided that I needed to stay. Please understand: The situation today is such that it is not hard to leave—it would even serve to my advantage. My foreign friends have told me: "If you resign now, you will get positive publicity in the West, and your academic career will be considerably more successful. I do not know whether you will believe me, but I do not want to ride into success on such bloodshed, such crap.

[Dikun] Nobody ever admits suggesting a bad decision to the president. As a result, all "flops" in our country are anonymous.

[Pain] That a particular decision does not have a particular author is quite normal. The final version is a composite of sorts, a mosaic of different proposals. This attribute is not peculiar to today's Russia. After all,

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nobody knows who proposed the "Desert Storm" or the operation to capture Noriega.

[Dikun] Who is then the architect of the current Russian policy?

[Pain] The perception that someone proposes a finalized version of a decision and the president accepts it in finished form is incorrect. In the end, he is the one building the structure. Usually, the president listens dispassionately to opinions and advice; I cannot recall a single incident of him rendering judgment: This idea is good and this one is not. He enters the conversation only when there are factual discrepancies or when he disagrees with the interpretation of a fact.

[Dikun] Does the president really know about everything in so much detail?

[Pain] At least, to some of my mental constructions he has replied: "No, you are not fully informed." As a rule, he was referring to facts, not the concept.

[Dikun] There have been reports in the Western press that the president allegedly had been actively consulting with a psychic lately. And that Dzhuna is particularly favored. Is the political strategy indeed being derived now from the stars or clairvoyants' predictions?

[Pain] Such cartoonization of life is typical of our times. All I can say is that it pains me to watch this.

Gaydar on Inflation, Reforms, Yeltsin

954F1717A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 7 Mar 95 p 4

[Interview with Yegor Timurovich Gaydar, leader of the Russia's Democratic Choice Party and head of the State Duma faction of the same name, by Vladimir Kuzmenkin: "Gaydar Does Not Aspire To Be President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **There is no need to introduce the leader of the Russia's Democratic Choice party and head of the State Duma faction by the same name, Yegor Gaydar. Suffice it just to pronounce two words—"Gaydar reforms"—and you will hear all kinds of words—good and also varied.... The author of these reforms has long been promising to visit Novosibirsk, but each time something has come up. Now finally, in February, politicians from the capital have been drawn to us along with the last winds of winter. Yegor Timurovich came as well, although, true, for only one day. Still he managed to meet with many people and to present his position in detail. Today, in somewhat abridged form, we are publishing Yegor Gaydar's answers to the most interesting questions asked of him in one form or another at practically every meeting.**

From VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK's files: Gaydar, Yegor Timurovich. Born 19 March 1956. Grandson of two writers: on the maternal side—of the fairy tale writer Pavel Bazhov, and on the paternal side—of the children's story writer Arkadiy Gaydar (Golikov). His father was also a writer: Rear Admiral Timur Gaydar. He is married to the daughter of the science-fiction writer Arkadiy Strugatskiy. He is the father of three sons. He graduated from the economics faculty and graduate school at Moscow State University. He is a doctor of economic sciences. He was the chief of the department of economic policy of the magazine KOMMUNIST. On 19 August 1991 he left the CPSU. In November 1991 he became deputy prime minister for questions of economic policy and also minister of finance and economics. He is considered to be the "father of economic reform." In March 1992 he was appointed first deputy prime minister. After June he was acting chairman of the government. He resigned in December 1992.

Effective September 1993 he was minister of economics and first deputy prime minister. He retired in January 1994.

He was a member of the Presidential Council and director of the Institute of Economic Problems of the Transition Period. President of the Association of Privatized and Private Enterprises. Deputy of the State Duma, leader of the Russia's Choice faction, chairman of the Russia's Democratic Choice party. He is one of the likely candidates for the post of president of Russia from the parties of the democratic camp.

[Kuzmenkin] Yegor Timurovich, what is important now is probably not who will come after Yeltsin, but what will come after Yeltsin. In other words, what is your view of the future?

[Gaydar] That is a very difficult question. Within the framework of what is happening today: the discontinued reforms, society's natural dissatisfaction with this, which naturally lies not on the shoulders of those who suspended the reforms, but on those who started them. There is a significant risk that a coalition of communists and nationalists will win in the next elections. I do not think that this is inevitable. I know that far from all Russians are eager to return to the bright past. Nonetheless, this wave of nostalgia could bring to power a person who is trying to leap back into the past once again, and such a leap would be futile. If this were to happen, I do not think it would be for a very long period in history—the victory of common sense in Russia, the movement toward a stable market, a stable democracy, stable private property, in my view, is inevitable. The question is whether we will have to pay an additional price for the attempt to move backward.

[Kuzmenkin] Is your trip to Novosibirsk related to your possible nomination as a candidate in the presidential elections?

[Gaydar] No, it is not. Of course, I understand that everyone is now ready to have the capital moved to Novosibirsk, and therefore the number of presidential candidates coming here will be large.... I am not one of them. We have a clearly defined position: We consider our most important task to be the creation of a broad democratic coalition for the parliamentary elections. It is

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very important not to lose them. To discuss the question of the president now would be objectively to raise a provocative and disintegrating question. Wanting not to deal a blow to the possibility of working together in the parliamentary elections, we have adopted a decision and are suggesting that our partners in the potential coalition do the same thing—to withdraw until the parliamentary elections the question of who would be the democrats' presidential candidate in 1996. If we reach agreement now, it will much easier to talk later.

[Kuzmenkin] Do you support Yeltsin's candidacy?

[Gaydar] That question will be decided by the party congress, but it seems extremely unlikely to me.

[Kuzmenkin] And Gorbachev?

[Gaydar] Again, that seems extremely unlikely, and I can explain why. Indeed Gorbachev did make changes in Russia, and in a certain sense he made democracy possible in Russia, but he stayed in the middle of the road. Already having paralyzed the old mechanism, which had begun to fall apart, Gorbachev froze with fright in the face of the steps that had to be taken if a new mechanism was to be created. And he paid dearly for this.

[Kuzmenkin] And yet Yeltsin is in a similar situation....

[Gaydar] At the end of 1991 I was very glad that he had not taken that path. The question arose: Who will take the responsibility—Yeltsin or Gorbachev? Gorbachev could not make the decision; Yeltsin made it. As a result, we were just about able to do something in Russia in 1992. Then, it seems to me, Yeltsin froze into indecisiveness under the impact of the circumstances. And today we are paying for this....

[Kuzmenkin] We need a new election law: Will they adopt it?

[Gaydar] I hope very much that they will manage to adopt this law. Regarding this question there is universal mutual understanding among the most diverse political forces. For instance, here we are cooperating with the communists and the agrarians—because everyone is interested in having the elections proceed according to the law. There is no certainty that such a law will be adopted. But there is hope. For the stability of Russian democracy it is very important to have laws on parliamentary and presidential elections.

[Kuzmenkin] Russia's Democratic Choice is relying on the youth, but the problem is that young people do not turn out for elections...

[Gaydar] It is a very difficult problem. If you look at the data from sociological polls, you will see that the basis of our support are young people who are skilled and educated. And who are the worst about turning out for the elections? People who are young and skilled.... Therefore, it is very important for these people to turn out to vote. And in order for them to come it is important that they understand that by not voting they are placing their destiny and the destiny of their children in the hands of those who, perhaps, are not so skilled, who do not have such a good understanding of what is going on in Russia. And the consequences of this can be very serious. We hope very much that we will be able to prove and explain to our like-thinkers that we have not yet reached a stable condition of the society, so that normal, cultured people can allow themselves to say with a wave of the hand: I am not interested in politics—I will do my own thing.... Then politics will make itself known in a very painful way, when they send your son to fight for some unknown reason!

[Kuzmenkin] Rumors to the effect that the Russia's Democratic Choice factions in the State Duma is on the verge of collapse are constantly being spread. Is that true?

[Gaydar] If my memory does not betray me, these rumors have been spread since the first Duma session. During this time the Democratic Party of Russia faction has collapsed, the 12 December faction appeared and then disappeared, and now the New Regional Policy faction is falling apart. Our faction was and still is the largest. Several people have left it and, apparently, several more will—this does not change anything in principle. Russia's Choice was formed as democratic and reformist, and at the same time it supports the president, that is, it is close to power. People who share our convictions have come to us, as have those who want to be in the party of power. At the end of last year, we differed fairly sharply in our assessment of the "Chechen conflict" and the ways the president could resolve it. Our faction was most decisively against the war. This made those who had entered the party and the faction face a choice. Those who came to the party of power, I think, will leave us. That is natural....

[Kuzmenkin] The reforms are spoken of as "Gaydar's reforms." Do you see that you are somehow to blame?

[Gaydar] Well, first of all, I already see how I am to blame for everything.... When I was removed from the government—and this was done by a powerful coalition of communists, agrarians, and nationalists—at that time, indeed, I had the illusion that now that they had removed me I would no longer be held responsible for what was going on. They seated a new prime minister and they supported him: Chernomyrdin will manage the economy and will answer for what comes of it.... After about three weeks I understood that, as it turns out, I would continue to be responsible for everything. Even today in the State Duma, one constantly hears discussions about the "irresponsibility of Gaydar's course," about the "antipopular Gaydar reform," although another person has been sitting in the prime minister's chair for a long time. And it was because I seem to be responsible for everything that I was forced to remain in politics: If so much stupidity is already linked to your name, it is desirable for there to be less of it.

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[Kuzmenkin] The rates of inflation are bothering everyone today. What do you have to say?

[Gaydar] It is simply that the government's budget and economic program, which were developed for peacetime conditions, unfortunately, are not very suitable for the conditions of war. The Chechen war immediately changed the situation drastically: During December the inflationary expectations of the population increased as never before during the preceding period of reforms. The same thing was true during January. As a result, in January we hit an extreme level of inflation—17 percent. No program could stand up under such blows! In February the rates dropped to 12 percent. I think that in March they will be lower than in February, and they will go down in April, May, and June. Unless, of course, there is another war....

[Kuzmenkin] Yegor Timurovich, they say about your team—the "team of laboratory assistants," which began the reform, that these were educated and intelligent people, but they did not understand Russia's national uniqueness. What do you say to that?

[Gaydar] My problem is that I skipped the stage of laboratory assistant. I did not have a chance to work like Yuriy Mikhaylovich Luzhkov; I went directly from chief scientific associate to institute director. And as for our separation from Russian tradition, I wrote a book called "The State and the Revolution." Its essence is an attempt to show that what we began and are doing, what we are fighting for—all this is linked to Russian tradition, ancient tradition, which pervades Russian history and largely makes up its core.

Ryzhkov Interviewed on Political Plans

954F1746A Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No 10, 9-15 Mar 95 p 8

[Interview with former USSR Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov, by OBSHCHAYA GAZETA correspondent Irina Velikanova, under the rubric "Gallery": "From Politics to Business and Back"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Nikolay Ryzhkov, the head of the next to last USSR Government, suddenly left the business world and announced his return to "big politics." OBSHCHAYA GAZETA correspondent asked Nikolay Ivanovich about his plans.*

[Ryzhkov] At this point I have no plans to run for the Duma or for president, but neither do I feel it possible that I should stay out of political life. I could have become a deputy in 1993, when three parties made an offer to me, and two of them made it to the Duma. But I did not pursue this goal—I could not participate in elections immediately after the parliament had been crushed. I do not know whether you are aware of it, but I am currently not a member of any party. I consider it absolutely impermissible that each party and each movement have their own presidential candidate. This way nobody can win—neither agrarians nor communists nor social-democrats. Victory will go to coalitions and blocs. And I see the meaning of my political work in being among those who will unite parties and movements around certain ideas and goals.

[Velikanova] Whom do you intend to unite?

[Ryzhkov] I am closest to the left-of-center wing. If you look at the programs of Glazyev, Zyuganov, Lipitskiy, Lapshin, and Vartazarova, there is not that much difference between them. The December elections to the Duma will fully clarify the situation, and then we can regroup.

[Velikanova] Have you already consulted with those you want to unite?

[Ryzhkov] We have not held official consultations—only preliminary talks so far. Large parties plan to go into parliamentary elections with their lists; those that do not make it alone should form a bloc, in my opinion. People who do not want to support Zhirinovskivites, Yabloko, and Gaydarovites should know that there is a left-of-center bloc that expresses their interests.

[Velikanova] Do you see for yourself only an organizational role, or would you like to become a bloc leader?

[Ryzhkov] This is not a matter of liking—I would like to read books, for instance. I like reading very much! If my comrades decide that I should be a leader, I will. If they name another leader, I will support him. This is not the main point for me.

[Velikanova] Your name does not appear in the rating lists of the leading politicians. Does that not concern you?

[Ryzhkov] Absolutely not.

[Velikanova] In order to become visible, a political organization needs serious financial resources. What potential do you have in this respect?

[Ryzhkov] A few years ago you would not have asked this question.... I cannot say that we currently have substantial means at our disposal, but if we unite, I believe we will get financial support. After all, we do not intend to put into our program that commercial banks ought to be liquidated or that all property should be owned by the state. You have to look out of the window. I believe that no party will survive today unless it frees itself from dogmatism and absorbs the new things produced by economic theory today.

[Velikanova] Nikolay Ivanovich, it looks as though serious changes have taken place in your outlook.

[Ryzhkov] I would not say so. I have always advocated mixed forms of ownership. I now realize that many things at the beginning of perestroyka should have been done differently. Nevertheless, I would still subscribe to ideas proclaimed at the time. It was not the ideas that were faulty, but their implementation.

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[Velikanova] How did you end up in the Tveruniversalbank management?

[Ryzhkov] I needed to work for a living, because the social security pension I receive as an ordinary citizen is very small. I worked as a consultant for several months, and a year ago I was elected chairman of the board.

[Velikanova] Did the bank need your name and your experience?

[Ryzhkov] Both, I think. People who work there are very nice and intelligent, with an excellent knowledge of the banking business. But they did not have enough knowledge of the national economy. This is the area I know very well, and the result was a mutually beneficial cooperation. I understand, of course, that my name added to the bank's image. And I am pleased that Ryzhkov's name was associated with honesty and integrity in the banking world.

[Velikanova] Having resigned from the bank, you lost a stable source of income. Are you planning to live on your pension?

[Ryzhkov] This is something to still figure out....

[Velikanova] In your opinion, who among the former political elite—government members, Central Committee secretaries—have adapted best to the current situation?

[Ryzhkov] Most of my ministers. Although everybody has had hard times—you remember the "witch hunt".... But in the end many quickly found their place in the new economic environment, because they were highly skilled professionals. For instance, Nikolay Pugin, minister of the automotive industry, who is today president of the GAS [Gorky Auto Works] joint-stock society. Others hold more modest jobs as advisers or consultants—as a rule in commercial and public structures. And I will tell you, these people's advice is extremely useful. It is a pity that the state does not need them. When Chernomyrdin became prime minister, I told Viktor Stepanovich that it makes sense to utilize the intellectual potential of old cadres, offered my help in organizing a consultative council. He agreed with me, but the matter never got beyond this conversation.

[Velikanova] In your opinion, why did the people who stood at the helm of perestroyka not retain their corporate unity?

[Ryzhkov] Members of my government remained friends: We call each other, socialize. Speaking of the Politburo, during its last year there was no unity there. Everybody had a different view of perestroyka. For instance, my position diverged increasingly from those of Yakovlev, Shevardnadze, and Medvedev, who were also joined by Gorbachev. In time, this crack grew into an abyss. Today, for instance, I have no desire to socialize with either Shevardnadze or Yakovlev—the latter I simply do not respect. I recently leafed through his early works. I had never been able to speak so beautifully of socialism and the CPSU....

[Velikanova] How do you appraise Gorbachev's political prospects?

[Ryzhkov] He does not have any prospects.

BY THE WAY, the people Nikolay Ryzhkov keeps company with these days are members of the Moscow Intellectual-Business Club, who elected Nikolay Ivanovich the club's honorary chairman. Among Ryzhkov's club associates are people who have recently stepped down from the political Olympus: Leonid Abalkin, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, Viktor Gerashchenko, Leonid Shebarshin, as well as some of its current inhabitants: Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Artur Chilingarov, deputies Sergey Glazyev and Vladimir Semago, as well as members of business and art circles. The former prime minister thinks in big categories in big politics and is a supporter of a left-of-center coalition. However, according to our information, the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] leadership is apprehensive about Ryzhkov and prefers solo moves under the leadership of its official leader, Gennadiy Zyuganov, to his unification ideas.

Recently, Nikolay Ryzhkov has been in more active contact with Yuriy Petrov, the president of Russia's former chief of staff and currently a prominent businessman, chairman of the State Investment Corporation. Both from Sverdlovsk, they maintain contacts between their clubs. By the way, the Realists Club, headed by Yuriy Petrov, recently became one of the founders of a new participant in the election campaign—the Realists Union. The newborn movement has already purchased time on television Channel 4 and the "Mayak" radio station. It is believed that the Realists Union is just a prologue to a later game of crafty schemes involving blocs.

Potential Presidential Candidates Compared

954F1749A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 10 Mar 95 p 6

[Article by Andrey Arbenyev: "Seated on a Golden Porch.... The Date of the Presidential Elections Has Not Yet Been Appointed Officially. But There Are Already Those Wishing To Test Their Mettle in This Race"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

Boris Yeltsin

Boris Yeltsin is today, in fact, the absolute ruler of the country. And what do we have? Warring Chechnya, a virtually independent Chuvashia all of a sudden, and Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, and Yakutia following hard on their heels. The Altay peasants are threatening to close the route from Altay to Moscow. The Far East is warning of something similar. Russia's coal regions are about to be shaken by a miners' strike. Leading Moscow newspapers and journals and also television are

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mounting a most powerful campaign to discredit their recent idol and "bastion of democracy."

Quite a difficult situation is shaping up for Yeltsin. Particularly if it is considered that the struggle for the presidency is beginning to flare up, like a bonfire in the wind. Once-loyal associates are fleeing to the opposition camps, and all will unfailingly "take a shot at being Napoleon." Vladimir Shumeyko, who was as much his man as could be, even he recently let slip that he is not averse to taking part in the fray. Compared with that of the other possible presidential candidates, Boris Nikolayevich's political popularity rating is sliding down to zero, virtually. There is much that many people will not forgive him. Some, first, the disintegration of the Union; others, second, the lashing with the aid of tanks of the White House; yet others, third, the hitherto unprecedented orgy of crime; fourth, the war in Chechnya; fifth, the indigence; sixth, people remember the promise to abolish the special party rations, simply forgotten; seventh, his nomenklatura past; eighth, the disregard for "values common to all mankind"; ninth, the handover of Crimea to Ukraine; tenth, the "burned-up" savings deposits; and, eleventh, the murder of Listyev, which, in these people's opinion, could have happened only as a consequence of the total screw-up that reigns in the country.

How correctly does Yeltsin understand both his own situation and the mood of Russia generally? If he understands and perceives correctly and if he wishes to remain president, for him to hold elections would make no sense. A loss is easy to compute. But if, as a consequence of some "unexpected" state of emergency, elections are, for all that, canceled, this also could prove to be not the most dependable medium for political longevity. It is said, after all, that [sentence as published]

Mikhail Gorbachev

After the pleiad of marasmic old men, who resembled sullen rocks that had become overgrown with slime and algae, the youngish, loquacious, smiling, and charming Mikhail Sergeyevich resembled more a light sea spray. There was something of the refreshing breeze in him at that time. Aside from the smile, his slogans lodged themselves in the mind: "We need socialism with a human face," "Perestroyka and new thinking," "Pluralism of opinions," and, particularly, "Each Soviet family must by the year 2000 have a separate apartment."

It is characteristic of people to believe in miracles. Belief in a miracle often brings joy. We were overjoyed. With both Mikhail Sergeyevich himself and his immortal "the process is up and running" and then with the Nobel Prize for the first president of the Union and then with the Germans, who called our Mikhail Sergeyevich "German of the year," and with the Americans and Italians also. Later (or at that time?) we gaped open-mouthed at the sight of pop stars, rushed to look at the "shops," and lined up at Uncle Mac's to swill down a plastic Coca-Cola and gobble up a roll also of overseas origin (and then say in the provinces that we had seen Moscow). Both young and old would chomp on chewing gum, pulling out of their teeth the cement Soviet fillings, and somewhere among these "shops," this pop rock, and the Mac's and Dac's we simply became lost. We ambled, meanwhile, along the same ditches and pondered the fact that, instead of "socialism with a human face," once again in front of us there stretched the length of the street the stupidly contented mug of the Soviet bureaucrat, pondered the fact that this large-muzzled landscape had gone nowhere and had simply covered for a while its nomenklatura breadth with posters with naked overseas marvels—while we were ambling and pondering, Mikhail Sergeyevich was getting up to his tricks.

Our dear one, warmly loved. He blew the Union. And just try asking him: What, old man, has become of the country's gold reserves? And why were the innocent vineyards cut down? And where were you looking when, in Karabakh, the first carnage in the Union began? He was asked about such things recently, incidentally. He was to blame, he says, and if I become president once again, I will rectify things. Thanks, but we will be better off somehow on our own.

Aleksandr Rutskoy

Aleksandr Rutskoy was for the "August" democrats of 1991 a real find. A dashing pilot, he had fought in Afghanistan, had twice fallen to the sinful earth from "angels'" altitude, had spent time in foreign captivity and had, in addition, taken part in the defense of the White House and had, altogether, a big moustache. Some Denis Davydov, only he does not write verse. A revolution has always needed its heroes. Rutskoy, who gave off a whiff of gunpowder, was exactly right for the role of hero. Not writing verse is nothing. The main thing is that he was able to coherently propose toasts in honor of the new authorities, cut silk ribbons at the opening of every conceivable banquet, and to remain calm and collected in front of the television cameras. Aleksandr Vladimirovich should be given his due: He coped with these "wedding general" duties flawlessly. He should have lived and prospered in that spot until the ripest old age, but no, an ill wind blew. Perhaps someone had put the evil eye on him? Baburin, for example. A sharp-eyed fellow. gipsyish. Snegur had not gotten the better of Bendery before Rutskoy, circumventing Boris Nikolayevich himself, promised to roll into a pea not only Snegur but all of Moldova and to spit it out through a pea-shooter. He then predicted the same "complete" fate for Dudayev, then someone else, then, but the man was prevented from showing what he could do, prevented. Boris Nikolayevich prevented him. People don't jump into the flames ahead of the parson, nor do they jump higher than their own heads. Then Aleksandr Vladimirovich promised to put Boris Nikolayevich into the same place also... into the pea-shooter.

And now October was at the doorstep. The traditional time in Russia for pickling cabbage for the winter,

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drinking one's cough mixture, and storming winter palaces with a Berdan rifle. Things did not work out with the Berdan rifle on this occasion, though. Such weapons are obsolete. And this "weapons ignorance" was Rutskoy's general (brilliant, it could be said even) mistake. He was outplayed.

But politics is a funny thing.... Ground to powder, Aleksandr Vladimirovich rose from the dead after the Lefortovo dungeon, like the phoenix. In a new capacity, it is true. Whereas earlier he was a democrat of democrats, he has now become a patriot of patriots. Well, yes, patriots need their heroes also.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy

Eduard Limonov wrote in his book "Limonov Contra Zhirinovskiy" that Vladimir Volfovich was a commonplace "Sovman" who has a single philosophy: wriggling through to the counter as nimbly as possible, without waiting in line (Limonov himself, for that matter, is an inveterate foul-mouthed individual, and the latter is, in addition, a shrewd piece of work). He was writing with a sneer and in a tone of censure. But he was making fun of him to no avail, incidentally. If Zhirinovskiy truly has such a mentality, his supporters will be none the fewer. For with us, if we look sternly into each man's soul, virtually the whole country dreams of shoving its way through to the counter without waiting in line.

Or am I mistaken? If I am, how then do we explain the fact that at the sight of Vladimir Volfovich, people's ears and cheeks glow in a blaze of happiness, and they fail to spot the commonplace logical incongruities that abound in the numerous programs of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. Zhirinovskiy calls on a poster, for example, for a lowering of the price of vodka and for it to be sold at each snack bar. Here, though, you open up a leaflet and you find with astonishment: Zhirinovskiy flays drunkenness. In one place Vladimir Volfovich promises to move the border posts only forward, away from Russia's borders; elsewhere he agrees to give up both Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for the Muslim fundamentalists to organize a slaughter there. After this, both Tajikistan and Uzbekistan would themselves come running to Russia. But who would then let them go? Vladimir Volfovich has many such incongruities: "one step to the right," and "two steps it is not known where." People probably do not see these obvious things because they simply do not want to see them. And why do they not want to see them, incidentally? What's the reason? The reason is simple. No one has yet managed to severely hobble Zhirinovskiy, as distinct from the majority of other politicians. He did not organize the "shock therapies," he did not carry through reforms with an iron hand, he did not pull the Union apart, he did not devalue savings, and so forth. Perhaps he did once slap the investigator Gdlyan with his open palm on the back of his head, but Gdlyan would not have voted for him in any case. One Gdlyan more or less.... In today's Russia Vladimir Volfovich has prospects.

Yegor Gaydar

His adversaries sometimes call Yegor Gaydar "the boy in pink pants" and "Manilov"—for his dreaminess. Remember how in Gogol Manilov and Chichikov are in conversation, and Manilov imagines: I will build a two-story home with a balcony so that Moscow can be seen for sure from the balcony. I will pour tea on the balcony, have heartfelt conversations, and will look at the Kremlin. He simply built nothing, however. Lenin condemned Manilov for this: "We have bred Manilovism." Perhaps this is why Yegor Timurovich dislikes Lenin and communists in general. Although he himself is a former communist. And not simply some "rank-and-file party soldier," but the erstwhile leader of the Economic Policy Department of the journal KOMMUNIST.

Although it is improper, of course, to compare Yegor Timurovich with Manilov. One dreamed of looking at the Kremlin, the other not only looked but was, in addition, in charge of the country from there. Although not as president, as chairman of the government, but still.... His rule, though, unfortunately for the inhabitants of the cities and villages, was brief. Gaydar called it "shock therapy," and the result was that the villagers and townspeople felt the shock—this was when prices were jumping every which way with the frenzy of a delirious patient—but simply never came to see the therapy. Yegor Gaydar had a simple explanation for this discomfiture: the damned communists again. They had shut off all oxygen to the reforms. I wanted to do better, but they prevented me. What is there to add here? The journal KOMMUNIST was certainly very good if we had so many communists left in the country. For it is also said that the fathers ate sour grapes, and this set their children's teeth on edge.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipments 'Entirely Safe'

MM1403144695 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 1 Mar 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by G. Smirnova, identified by caption]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Smirnova over video of nuclear icebreakers at quayside, special nuclear train being loaded] Loading of a special train is drawing to a close in Murmansk. The train will convey spent nuclear fuel from nuclear-powered icebreakers and Northern Fleet submarines to the Mayak Production Association in Chelyabinsk. The innovative and unique operation serves as a test of interdepartmental cooperation between the Murmansk Sea Shipping Line, the Atomflot enterprise, the railroads, the Northern Fleet, and the Izhorskiy plant which produced the special containers for the transportation of the spent fuel.

[B. Kopylov, head of the Murmansk Sea Shipping Line fuel safety service, identified by caption] The uniqueness of this container lies in that it provides protection

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against various kinds of accidents in transit. The fuel transportation and the loading operation which you see here are entirely safe.

Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipped From Murmansk to Urals

LD1503093595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0829 GMT 15 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Belousov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Murmansk March 15 TASS—Wednesday finished the unique operation of loading spent fuel of nuclear-powered ice breakers into containers for shipping it to the Urals.

The operation was started in end-February by Murmansk's "Atomflot" factory. A special train with containerised fuel left Murmansk last night for the "Mayak" plant, where the fuel will be regenerated for civilian uses.

Russian-made containers and vans for fuel shipment conform to standards of the international nuclear safety inspection.

Experts acknowledge the employed loading and unloading technology which had been tested by "Atomflot" before using it in this operation.

Now the Russian nuclear sector is equipped for shipments of spent fuel of nuclear-powered ice-breakers and submarines.

The shipments are absolutely safe, ITAR-TASS was told by Vyacheslav Ruksha, nuclear service director of the Murmansk Shipping Company.

Before the end of the year Murmansk's fuel shipping train will make five trips to the Arctic. However, to ship the entire store of spent fuel piled from Murmansk's provisional storage sites will require years.

Yeltsin Appoints Lazutkin Head of Television Service

LD1703181995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1701 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 17 Mar—Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree today appointing Valentin Lazutkin the head of the federal service for television and radio broadcasting, the press service of the Russian head of state told ITAR-TASS today.

By another decree, the Russian president dismissed Aleksandr Yakovlev from that post and from the post of acting chairman of the Russian state television and radio company Ostankino at his own request, said the presidential press service.

Further on Lazutkin's Appointment

LD1703184995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 17 (INTERFAX)—Russian President Yeltsin has said that the removal of Yakovlev from the post of the leader of the TV and Radio Broadcasting Company Ostankino, "is not his dismissal, he quit on his own request."

Speaking with journalists in the Kremlin Friday [17 March] following the credentials presentation ceremony by Ambassadors of some countries, the president said: "He (Aleksandr Yakovlev) is creating a new party. He is unable to do both jobs. It is very difficult, and to create such a party, a united, democratic party, which would play a significant role in the election campaign, is very important."

That is why, believes the president, Yakovlev's role "is more important in that area (the creation of a new party - IF), and this was done by our mutual agreement and with his consent."

"Lazutkin is well known and respected by the Ostankino personnel, he knows all the workings (i.e. knows it inside out - IF note) of the company. Though earlier I had questions for him, I am not that unforgiving and decided to forget about them," said the president.

The president spoke about Valentin Lazutkin, one of the deputies of the chairman of the Russian Federal Service for TV and Radio Broadcasting.

Interfax did not manage yet to obtain information on what new appointment Lazutkin received following Yakovlev's application Thursday to step down from the post of Ostankino chairman.

Meanwhile, according to a well-informed source close to the government, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin met recently with Lazutkin. The two sides discussed Lazutkin's possible appointment as leader of Ostankino. According to the source, Yakovlev himself recommended that Lazutkin take the post. The source quoted Chernomyrdin as saying that he had discussed the question with President Yeltsin.

However, at the meeting with the prime minister, Lazutkin rejected the proposal and recommended current Director General of the Russian State TV and Radio Broadcasting Company Anatoliy Lysenko for the top post at Ostankino.

Lazutkin, who Interfax turned to to clear up the situation following Yeltsin's statement in the Kremlin, said: "I did not plan and even now have no thoughts of returning to Ostankino. I am fully satisfied with my work at the Federal Service for TV and Radio Broadcasting."

Legal Proceedings Against NOVYY VZGLYAD

954F1677B Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No 9, 2-8 Mar 95 p 12

[Article by Anna Politkovskaya under the rubric "Colleagues": "'Vox Populi' Conquers the Capital, But the Capital Staunchly Resists"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] **The Judiciary Chamber for Information Disputes under the president proposed that the RF [Russian Federation] Committee on Press and Information to consider stripping the NOVYY VZGLYAD newspaper of its license. This was prompted by the publication of Ya. Mogutin's article "The Chechen Knot. 13 Theses" (No. 3, 1995). NOVYY VZGLYAD editor in chief Yevgeniy Dodolev called this a "commie" decision.**

As usual, this story has a background, which may be of interest to our readers. Some time ago, Yaroslav Mogutin—a quick-witted but very high-strung young man from Kemerovo—showed up in Moscow. This visit would perhaps have passed quite peacefully and unnoticeably, like the visits of thousands of other provincial guests to the capital, had it not been for a very important circumstance: Nature has bestowed upon the young man a gift of putting words into phrases, so naturally he began to try his wings in the literary calling.

He had plenty of creative ambition, and hence he soon began the sad journey all too familiar to every journalist—from one capital city newspaper office to another in search of luck. One cannot say that he was understood and accepted everywhere. Naturally, it pained the young man, and then a certain gentleman began to firmly establish his presence in his life—Yevgeniy Dodolev, editor in chief of the private newspaper NOVYY VZGLYAD, one of the numerous MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA supplements. It was apparently he who came up with the idea how to use Mr. Mogutin's talents to his own benefit.

At Moscow cocktail parties and in the demi-monde, the Siberian Yaroslav was soon proclaimed a "gem from distant backwaters," a man "unspoiled by education," and therefore a "genius," a "son of a sewing-machine operator from Kemerovo's outskirts," whose voice, of course, is no less than the 'vox populi.'

The "gem" began to publish a succession of his opuses in NOVYY VZGLYAD. Their main distinguishing feature was an absolutely pristine form, untouched by editor's pencil, and the author's clear predilection for dirty words. Over slightly more than a year, Mr. Mogutin commented on all more or less significant political events in Russia. Under the wise guidance of his older comrade, he chewed out everyone whom for whatever reason he personally disliked.

Interestingly, whenever someone attempted to get indignant over the quality of the "gem's" literary excursions and his primitive views, or went even further and sued for defamation of his honor and dignity, this was the greatest feast for Mr. Dodolev's soul. NOVYY VZGLYAD's editor in chief tongue-lashed in every way those who dared to raise a voice against him, and on such occasions personally resorted to increasingly unbridled insults. The famous Genrikh Padva, attorney at law, was hired to defend Mr. Mogutin in court. Thus, Mr. Dodolev achieved his goal: While in the past some were not aware of him, let alone the NOVYY VZGLYAD newspaper, now at least everybody had heard that this newspaper and its head were being persecuted by the democratic authorities.

Actually, in order to comprehend the meaning of Dodolev's idea, one has to be at least somewhat be familiar with the editor in chief. Over the past 15 years he has been known in Moscow first of all for his incredible sensationalism and passion for hoaxes. Mr. Dodolev is a journalist. He acquired fame as a sensation-seeking correspondent of MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS and the mouthpiece of investigator Telman Gdlyan's views.

It was when, following Telman Gdlyan's star, Yevgeniy Dodolev's journalistic star began steadily to decline that he happened upon the young man Yaroslav, inexperienced in the capital city's cynicism. Very quickly, without realizing it, the latter became a saving crutch for the NOVYY VZGLYAD editor in chief.

One day Mr. Dodolev received a telephone call. Mogutin offered a "pro-president article on Chechnya in 13 theses." By then Mr. Dodolev was sick and tired of all the stuff most Russian newspapers were writing about the Chechen war, sympathizing in every way with the poor Groznyy residents and the federal troops sent there to die for nothing. The editor in chief immediately took the article and published it with his own comments, in which—just in case—he somewhat distanced himself from the overly direct accusations leveled by Mr. Mogutin, for the reason of his extremely tender age, against everyone he personally had gotten sick and tired of.

Let us quote just a small bit of Mogutin's pretentious novelties: On Chechens: "They are a semi-savage, barbaric nation, famous for its barbarism and gloomy fierceness, who have not given to the world anything except international terrorism and drug business.... Ask any Russian how he feels about Chechens, and you will realize that this hate is not of an ideological, cerebral nature—it is deeper, much deeper: zoological, genetic, animalistic.... Ethnic incompatibility.... Chechnya is a threat to the entire Christian civilization.... Not a single Chechen on the territory of Russia should be allowed to sleep well." On the intelligentsia: "The creative intelligentsia is an anti-Russian precipitation tank." On Sergey Kovalev: "Just the look of this miserable intellectual rat, this Sakharov's Epigonus, is capable of evoking disgust among physically and mentally capable people."

There is no question that Mr. Mogutin has the right to think and say whatever he feels like. And he does not even have to pretend to be a 'vox populi' for this—as is known, so far freedom of speech and freedom of the press are a constitutional right in the Russian Federation.

The law is the law, however, and the Constitution does not take into account all our emotional impulses and soul-baring. While granting the citizens the right to think

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and speak what they want, under certain circumstances it also demands of them responsibility. For instance, for inciting interethnic strife in any of its manifestations. The law "On the Mass Media" says the same. As a result, at the very first hearing held by the Judiciary Chamber for Information Disputes on the subject of Yaroslav Mogutin's theses published in NOVYY VZGLYAD with respect to their being in conformance with the current legislation, it turned out that such conformance is lacking.

Was this rather important circumstance of any interest to the editor in chief? Of course not. As should have been expected, he attempted to use the Judiciary Chamber's hearing as a convenient stage for a continuing demonstration of his sensationalist style in journalism. In the course of another of Dodolev's "productions," Judiciary Chamber members were showered with insults—some of them unprintable. Neither did he spare his colleagues, who, in Mr. Dodolev's opinion, have been "bought" through and through, and on top of that are "freeloaders."

Mr. Dodolev's speech was very long. And increasingly disgusting. By the end of the speech, it had become clear that he also does not give a damn about Mr. Mogutin's problems, or anything else, including the crisis in Chechnya that he undertook to cover in his newspaper. Mr. Mogutin, on the contrary, said considerably less and was unconvincing with respect to his political positions. Yaroslav did not progress beyond exclamations of the "Let a Russian patriot say his word!" kind. Actually, everything he did have time to say attested to only one fact: that what we had there was a terribly harried boy in immediate need of therapeutic treatment in a good sanitarium specializing in stress-relief, or of going home to mother. And fast.

In this connection I question the Judiciary Chamber's decision to send relevant materials to the general procuracy—to open another criminal case against Mr. Mogutin for inciting interethnic strife in the mass media. It would be more appropriate to turn to poor Yaroslav's mother, asking her to cuddle and console him after all this abominable life in the capital, where her son, with his not- too-strong nervous system, landed smack in the middle. Is it really necessary to persist in making a dissident out of Mr. Mogutin?

As to Mr. Dodolev, even if NOVYY VZGLYAD is stripped of its license, he—a capable and sarcastic man—will not sink. Besides, as he himself admitted, his interest in NOVYY VZGLYAD has waned considerably now, and he is beginning to publish a new periodical titled MOYA GAZETA. So I guess Moscow ought to brace up for an advent of another "lad from Siberia" or a "girl from a remote village."

Federal Assembly

Duma To Consider Imposing Sanctions Against Ukraine

LD1703183095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1720 GMT 17 Mar 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 17 (INTERFAX)—The State Duma is to consider possible sanctions in response to the Ukrainian parliament's Crimea-related decisions, Chairman of the State Duma's Committee for CIS Affairs and Contacts with Compatriots Konstantin Zatulin told the deputies.

He said that during a closed-door session, the Ukrainian parliament had taken decisions which annul Crimea's republic status and presidency.

He also said that during its next plenary session, the State Duma should discuss possible sanctions, among them the suspension of trade and economic agreements and the demand for the immediate repayment of the Ukrainian debts, and also measures connected with the security of the Russian citizens and servicemen in Crimea.

In his opinion, the State Duma should urge the Russian president, government and Foreign Ministry "to cancel all visits to Ukraine" pending the clarification of the situation. He also pointed out that Russia's First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets was to visit Kiev on Monday.

Zatulin believes that the Ukrainian parliament's decision points to Ukraine's wish to manipulate the fact that "Russia has got stuck in Chechnya."

Rybkin issued the instruction to get in touch with Ukrainian Parliament Chairman Oleksandr Moroz and get the taken decisions by fax. Only on the basis of official documents can the State Duma work out its own decisions, he said.

Rybkin Views Ukraine Decision on Crimea Constitution

LD1703212095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 17 (Interfax)—"This is an internal affair of Ukraine though we care a lot about it," Chairman of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin told Interfax when commenting the decisions of the Ukrainian parliament today to annul the Crimean Constitution and the institution of the presidency in Crimea.

Rybkin said it was a positive factor that the Crimean parliament and government remained and that local elections would be held.

Deputy Chairman of the State Duma Artur Chilingarov told deputies that Ukrainian Parliament Chairman Oleksandr Moroz had confirmed to him over the phone that the elections would take place on April 29 as planned.

Commission Head Addresses State Duma on Chechen Situation

LD1803200195

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1313 GMT on 18 March carries a four-minute report on Chechnya, with a recording of a speech

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to the State Duma by Stanislav Govorukhin, chairman of the commission investigating the events in Chechnya. Govorukhin says:

"For three years the Russian authorities and the Russian president put up with a criminal regime, and such was that reign that it gripped the imagination of a country as criminalized as Russia. People who had committed serious crimes on the territory of Russia or neighboring countries would flee to Chechnya because they knew that the law would not reach them there.

"Blood and tears have been flowing in Chechnya all these years. Only one word can be used to describe it: genocide. And not a single human rights activist said anything. Neither did the press sound the alarm. It remained silent! And for me this is an important question. Why did the press remain silent? If one finds the answer to this question, one will also be able to find the causes of the Chechen crisis. We know that the press could have prevented tragedies happening to tens of thousands of people who are now drifting around the country, forced to flee from the Dudayev regime, and who are now cursing Almighty God, and the Russian president, and you and me. The press could have saved hundreds of lives. It did not do that! Let me repeat, this is a question of principle for me. Tell me, what manipulated it, or rather who? Name me those names, and then you can say that the organizers of the crime in Chechnya, a terrible crime against the state and the Russian people, have been identified. They can be presented with the bill."

He goes on to say that a lot of weapons were also smuggled to Chechnya and that this must also be investigated. He then says:

"These weapons were also taken there after the beginning of the military action, when our children dressed in soldiers' uniforms were already being killed. Chechnya was trading in these weapons with neighboring countries, selling all the weapons that had been left to it by the Russian troops. There are two trainloads of them.

"Now, this is the most difficult and probably the most dangerous direction of our investigation,that is the cooperation between commercial firms and banks and Chechen firms and banks. Here we are talking about false documents, illegal exchange of old banknotes, weapons, and oil."

Govorukhin next mentions an interview on this subject with Russian commander Kulikov, recently published in a newspaper, and asks whether Dudayev was not financing his side from money in Russian commercial banks. He asks:

"And isn't this money the main base for the propaganda campaign to demoralize the Russian army? Is it not with this money that the Dudayev regime is still buying the latest heavy equipment, tanks, and artillery installations, like those that had been captured by troops near Argun? In any case, the commission will investigate this."

Duma Commission Investigates Causes of Chechen Crisis

LD2003123195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1116 GMT 20 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Mar 20 (Interfax)—A second open session of the Duma's commission, investigating the causes and circumstances of the crisis in Chechnya, opened at the parliamentary center in Moscow on Monday. Taking part are Gennadiy Burbulis, former state secretary, Aleksandr Rutskoy, ex vice president, Mikhail Poltoranin, former deputy premier, and other Russian politicians.

Participants have been discussing the circumstances of Dudayev's coming to power in Chechnya in the autumn of 1991 and the legitimacy of the Chechen authorities then.

Speaking at the session, Sergey Bekov, Chechnya's former prime minister, emphatically rejected an assertion that Chechnya's parliament had backed up the State of Emergency Committee in the autumn of 1991. He also declared that Chechnya's cabinet "had nothing to do" with the elections of Dudayev as republican president since it had not provided "a single ruble" for those elections them. He explained that by the fact that in that period the republic kept two nations together, and its government "did not support its partition in any way."

Nor, according to Bekov, did the cabinet have anything in common with Chechnya's National Congress. "It really controlled the situation in Chechnya" until November 1, 1991.

Ex premier informed participants in the session about the circumstances of the assault by Dudayev's followers of the parliament building in Groznyy, of the crack down against the legislature (on September 6), and of the decision adopted by the parliament on September 15, 1991 to dissolve itself. He did not identify the politician who initiated the self-dissolution motion, but said: "it might have been Ruslan Khasbulatov."

Bekov confirmed that in 1990-1991, the republic had been fled by over 30,000 ethnic Russians, which equals the number of ethnic Russians who had left Chechnya over the previous ten years. In his opinion, they fled because of "the mounting wave of meetings and the sense of instability in life." However, Bekov could not cite any facts of prosecution against ethnic Russians.

Regional Affairs

Norilsk Threatens To Break Away From Krasnoyarsk Kray

MK1803114095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Mar 95 p 2

[Report from Krasnoyarsk by Sergey Fedorchenko under the "Conflict" rubric: "Norilsk Demands Divorce From

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Krasnoyarsk Kray. Splitting of Tax Revenues Prompts Norilsk Mayor's Dismissal"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Norilsk (Krasnoyarsk Kray) a collection of signatures began 16 March under the demand that the city be immediately resubordinated either to Taymyr Autonomous District or directly to Moscow. Currently, Norilsk, a polar city located on Taymyr territory, is administratively subordinated to Krasnoyarsk. Tensions in relations between the kray authorities and Norilsk, caused by what the Norilsk residents see as excessive rates of deductions to the kray budget, considerably heightened last year in connection with the conversion of the Russian nonferrous metallurgy's flagship—Norilsk Mining and Metallurgy Combine ("Norilskiy Nickel" concern)—into a joint-stock company, a plan categorically opposed by Krasnoyarsk. The last straw in the conflict was the kray legislature's adoption of the 1995 budget, under which Krasnoyarsk plans to receive from Norilsk 797 billion rubles as its budget revenue, while letting the city keep 291 billion in its budget, or one-third of Norilsk's actual requirements as estimated by City Hall. Given that, on 16 March city radio broadcast Norilsk City Hall's appeal to the Russian president; Deputy Kray Governor Yevgeniy Vasilyev urgently flew to the trans- polar hot spot.

Your SEGODNYA correspondent has learned that Mr. Vasilyev chaired a morning planning meeting 17 March at Norilsk City Hall, at which he announced the resignation of Norilsk Mayor Vasiliy Tkachev, an initiator of the scandal with the kray authorities, and introduced a new mayor to Norilsk inhabitants, Anatoliy Popov, kray legislature deputy, who earlier worked as Mr. Tkachev's deputy. The kray legislature confirmed that a telegram on Mr. Popov's appointment was signed by Governor Valeriy Zubov, but Mr. Zubov himself would not give any comments. By some accounts, Mr. Tkachev plans to appeal his dismissal in court.

It has transpired that Federation Council deputy Anatoliy Filatov, president of the "Norilskiy Nickel" Russian joint-stock company and a very influential figure in the North, has approved of the initiative on resubordinating the city put forward by the already former Norilsk mayor. Mr. Filatov is one of the main opponents of the kray authorities on the issue of transforming "Norilskiy Nickel" into a joint-stock company. It is more than likely that the federal authorities, too, will also become embroiled in the conflict because a member of the Cabinet of Ministers sits on the joint-stock company's board of directors "on behalf of the state" as an owner of the controlling block of shares.

Official Comments on Ingush-Ossetian Situation

LD1803140995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1342 GMT 18 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz March 18 TASS—The sides in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict managed to switch from force methods of stabilising the situation in the conflict zone to legal and political, said Vladimir Lozovoy, chairman of the Russian Temporary State Committee on Overcoming Consequences of the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict, here on Saturday.

Lozovoy expressed this point of view in an interview with the VESTNIK newspaper which is published by the Temporary State Committee here.

"Refugees and displaced persons are returning to villages of the Prigorodnyy district. Restoration work is in progress here, and people who lost their property, receive compensation," Lozovoy continued.

According to the chairman, work is now nearing completion on a federal programme spelling out specific areas for a comprehensive solution of the refugee problem.

"Regrettably," Lozovoy noted, "extremist forces in the region try to destabilise the situation in the conflict zone and to interfere with the reconciliation process of the Ossetian and Ingush peoples. The events in neighbouring Chechnya also negatively influence the situation."

In the chairman's opinion, the Russian Prosecutor-General's Office should give, at long last, a legal appraisal of the conflict in the Prigorodnyy district. Lozovoy said that the question on reviewing borders and remapping the territory in the Caucasus should be removed from the agenda.

This road leads to a deadend and can result in a new tragedy in the region. All outstanding issues should be settled by the sides on the basis of laws and the Constitution of the Russian Federation.

Military sources reported on Saturday that the situation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict remains difficult. However, it is controlled, on the whole, by units of the Russian Army and local law enforcement bodies.

No ethnic clashes were registered here over the past 24 hours. It was also relatively calm in the four villages in the Prigorodnyy district where refugees and displaced persons return.

According to information received by the press service of the North Ossetian president and the government, it became known that a delegation of the public led by legislator Sergey Baburin ended its visit to the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict.

Its members met Lozovoy, refugees and members of the mass movements and political parties. Baburin expressed serious concern over the position of Cossacks and Russian-speaking population in the Caucasus as well as over the fact that many Russians left the region for other parts of the Russian Federation.

Delegation members suggested that a permanent watchdog commission of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) be established in the conflict zone.

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It will give closer attention to stabilisation of the situation in the Caucasian region.

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya

Groznyy Commandant: Situation 'Controllable'

MM1703145495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Mar 95 p 1

[Interview with Groznyy Commandant Major General Vyacheslav Sviridov by Boris Soldatenko and Sergey Prokopenko; date, place not given: "'We Came To Restore Peace,' Groznyy Commandant Major General Sviridov Says"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The command post of the commandant of the liberated city, which is situated in the "Severnyy" airport building, resembles a disturbed anthill. The situation in the city is being sized up on the run, military engineers and medics are going off to rayons in response to alarm calls, the schedule for distributing humanitarian aid is being adjusted, and help is being given to the victims. Snatching a free moment in this merry-go- round, Vyacheslav Viktorovich agreed to give an exclusive interview to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

[Sviridov] As of today the troops are completely in control of Groznyy with the exception of certain southern regions in the outskirts which are still partially under the "care" of Dudayev's formations. But the main thing I would like to note is that the situation corresponds to the command's forecasts and testifies that it has proved possible to avoid civil war on the territory of the Chechen Republic. And indeed a general Caucasian war.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Nevertheless the danger of terrorist acts being conducted in the city has not been ruled out. Do you not think that in this situation Groznyy is doomed to desolation and destruction for a long time?

[Sviridov] I will note once again: The situation in Groznyy may be complex today, but it is controllable. Therefore I would like to believe that life in the city is gradually stabilizing. And if all the Russian ministries and departments which have been instructed to restore it make whatever contribution they can in a timely fashion then soon the city will start living a normal life again. But to my mind, the most important thing is that the law is gaining force. Administrative zones and areas have been created, in which military headquarters will also be constituent components, and work is being conducted to normalize the situation and ensure the city's vital functions. Operational staffs made up of representatives of local administrations, residents, and heads of enterprises and institutions have been set up under the various commandant sectors and are providing considerable assistance in clearing up the territory. In Staropromyslovskiy and Zavodskiy Rayons, as well as a number of other rayons, medical institutions are being restored, and a lot of them have already started working. The supply of humanitarian aid to the population has been organized. A bakery has started working in Staropromyslovskiy Rayon, and its output is being given free of charge to the residents.

...But we are imposing order too. I would like to express special gratitude to staffers of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs State Automobile Inspectorate [GAI], who are risking their lives to carry out their professional duty. In the past two months alone GAI staffers have found over 200 cars which were on a Russia- wide stolen vehicles list.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] But a great many problems remain. Like drinking water, for instance....

[Sviridov] You are right. Water is the most difficult problem of all at the moment. But we are trying to find a solution. We discovered a half-destroyed water pipeline a few dozen kilometers away from Groznyy which may possibly soon become the main "source" for the city. For the time being, however, the inhabitants have to be satisfied with water brought in from elsewhere.

However, all these are side issues. Our main task is to bring back peace and calm to the Chechen Republic. This will make it possible for the refugees to return. With this aim in mind, there is a plan to reestablish the system for the social protection of the citizens, mail and telegraph communications in the city, and television and radio broadcasting.

It is also important that the republic administration is already working on the territory of the city. And Groznyy City Hall, headed by Beslan Gantemirov, started operating as of 12 February.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] But we have seen that at the moment people prefer to turn to the military commandant's office.

[Sviridov] The decision to form administrative zones in the liberated areas of Groznyy was a very timely and necessary step. But we understand perfectly well that the military cannot nevertheless solve all the problems.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Judging by the operational data, a certain proportion of the humanitarian aid has fallen into the hands of speculators, or has even been taken out of Groznyy and given to gunmen.

[Sviridov] There have been such cases. That is why we took control of the distribution of the humanitarian aid ourselves. But our task is not only to ensure that all of the inhabitants of Groznyy have food. People have to be given the opportunity to see for themselves that the Russian servicemen have come here with one aim—to establish normal living conditions.

Many inhabitants of Chechnya have been duped by Dudayev's propaganda and were convinced that the Russian soldiers would plunder, rape, and destroy, and that the entire Chechen people would be deported, which

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is what happened 50 years ago. But the real picture is completely different. Hundreds of cases can be cited of officers and men giving up their dry rations and giving them to old people and women in Groznyy during the operations.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] The Russian Federation internal affairs organs discovered Dzhokhar Dudayev's personal archives. What did they contain?

[Sviridov] They contained samples of Chechen Republic banknotes, letters, reports, secret files, and so on. The documents included a heap of materials pointing to the criminal activity of the Dudayev leadership against its own people. Over 500 cases involving criminals hiding from justice were discovered, and these people now comprise the nucleus of the bandit formations. These are people who simply have nowhere to retreat to and who understand perfectly well that sooner or later they will find themselves in the dock. They face the maximum period of imprisonment or capital punishment. It is perfectly natural that they do not want to bear responsibility for the crimes that have been committed and that they will fight to the end.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] You have said that the city hall is already operating in Groznyy. What are relations between the military and the new organs of civil power like?

[Sviridov] Russian legislation and the Constitution form the basis of our cooperation. At the same time, we do not intend to undermine or in any way violate the rights of the local administration. On the contrary, as the Chechen Republic internal affairs organs and other power structures are formed, our functions will be reduced.

Russians Beaten at Argun River Attack

LD1703185095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Mar 17 (Interfax)—Russian troops Friday launched an attack across the Argun River but were beaten off by Chechen forces, Chechnya's official spokesman Movlady Udugov said.

About 100 Russian soldiers managed to cross the river to the Chechen-controlled bank but, after a half-hour battle in which 20 of them were killed, went back across the Argun, Udugov told Interfax.

He also said Russian artillery and warplanes again struck Friday morning at Argun town, the suburbs of Shali, the villages of Stariye Atagi, Noviye Atagi, Bamut, Alkhan-Yurt and Alkhan-Kala and the suburbs of Gudermes. In Argun a flour mill and a local branch of the Chechen capital Groznyy's Krasnyy Molot factory were destroyed, Udugov said. One of the bombs hit a storehouse for pipes for drilling oil wells.

Interfax has had no confirmation of this from Russian military sources.

The Chechen General Staff has reported that large amounts of Russian armor have been seen moving towards Stariye Atagi village, between 25 and 30 kilometers (between 15 and 20 miles) south of Groznyy.

Grachev 'Satisfied' With Groznyy Talks on Army's Role

LD1703211695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1856 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Mar 17 (INTERFAX)—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said that Russian troops acting in Chechnya "will not be any longer entering Chechen populated centers."

He told Interfax today that the main role for restoring constitutional order in Chechnya would from now on belong to the Russian Interior Ministry.

Grachev said decisions on freeing this or that populated center from militants were now being made by the Interior Ministry's leadership. "The army will be used only for backing up the activities of interior troops," he added.

Grachev met with the command of the Russian troops in Chechnya in Groznyy today. Commenting on the results of the meeting, Grachev said he was satisfied with it. He said the morale of the personnel was high. He said he was certain servicemen would manage to carry out any task set out for them.

Grachev is expected to leave for Moscow this evening.

Dudayev's Supporters Open Fire

LD1803122495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1140 GMT 18 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok, North Ossetia, 18 Mar—Dudayev's armed fighters are continuing their attempts to strengthen their strongholds in the area round the populated locations of Argun, Gudermes, and Chechen-Aul. It was reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent today at the press center of the command of the unified grouping of federal forces that last night Dudayev's men fired on the positions of federal troops with small arms and mortars. The firing positions of the armed fighters were suppressed by return fire from the artillery and from tank guns.

It was noted at the press center that the elders and religious figures from a number of Chechen villages have recently been in places where the armed fighters are deployed. They are trying to convince Dudayev's men to stop the military operations and to leave these settlements.

Groznyy Television Center To Begin Broadcast

LD1803124195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1201 GMT 18 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Lev Ostanin]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Mozdok, North Ossetia, 18 Mar—Tonight, Groznyy television will resume its broadcasts interrupted in December last year. Yavus Akhmadov, chairman of the Information and Press Committee of the government of national revival of Chechnya, told ITAR-TASS that the programs will go on air twice a day. It is envisaged that broadcasts from the Groznyy television center will be received not only on the territory of Chechnya, but in a number of regions in Ingushetia and North Ossetia. According to Akhmadov, the main themes of the programs will be stories about restoration of the economy of the Chechen capital and actions of the federal forces' subunits.

State Commission Examines Restoration

LD1803125695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 18 TASS—The press service of the Russian Government circulated on Saturday a report on the results of a meeting held in Groznyy by the State Commission on Economic Restoration in Chechnya. The reports says as follows:

According to a report by the Mobile Information Centre, a visiting meeting of the State Commission on Restoration of the Economy and the Social Sphere in the Chechen Republic, chaired by First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets, was held in Groznyy on Friday. The meeting examined the following questions:
- deliveries of bread, electricity and gas to the city,
- spring sowing in the Chechen Republic,
- restoration of water supply and sewage in the city,
- financing of restoration work.

Representatives from federal ministries and ministries of the Chechen government of national revival made reports on these issues.

The meeting was addressed by Soskovets who visited several projects in Groznyy on Thursday, including hospital No. 9, third bakery, an administrative precinct in a Groznyy district as well as the railway junction where 936 people work.

The personnel at the junction, in contrast to doctors at hospital No. 9, regularly receive wages as well as medical aid. According to plans, the junction will be restored over the next 15-20 days, and Groznyy will start receiving regular freight deliveries so necessary for its population.

The general appraisal made by Soskovets is as follows: Work in all spheres has been started and is in progress. However, it is not conducted at a due scale and is not ensured organisationally by the territorial administration of federal bodies in Chechnya, the Chechen government of national revival and the Groznyy townhall.

At the same time, apartment houses as well as social and cultural establishments in areas visited by the state commission are ready, in the main, to receive population. The number of people engaged in restoring those projects rose from 10,000 to 30,000 people over the past 15-20 days.

Groznyy opened some bus lines, and spontaneous marketplaces operate. Shops and catering establishments start opening.

Head of the Territorial Administration Semenov noted that several banks are completing preparations to open offices in Groznyy, which will help to ease payment of wages and to finance restoration work.

According to Semenov, intensity of restoration work in the republic largely depends on managerial activities of the national revival government and its structures. He noted with satisfaction that over 400 wagons with building materials, seeds, fertilizers and fuel for spring sowing are coming to Groznyy by rail.

Fifty Chechen state farms have already sown leguminous crops as of today.

The situation in the Chechen Republic is gradually returning to normal.

Shakhray: Chechnya 'Russia's National Tragedy'

LD1803151595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW Mar 18 (Interfax)—The Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray has described the Chechen crisis as Russia's national tragedy. Shakhray, the leader of the party of Russian Unity and Accord, was speaking at the party's federal conference in Moscow on Saturday.

Shakhray said a draft government plan had been worked out under his guidance for a peace settlement of the Chechen conflict, which consisted of several phases. In the first place the plan is geared to ending hostilities. In the second phase zones of the non-use of force will be set up and local authorities elected. Shakhray said that it was too early to consider electing republican bodies of government, let alone holding a referendum on Chechnya's future status.

Shakhray believes that at this point it may be worth forming a Chechen delegation for future talks on the delimitation of powers between the federal government and Chechnya. "Secession from Russia is impossible, because the country's Constitution does not allow for this", Shakhray said.

Press Service Statement on Chechnya

LD1803165395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 18 TASS - The press service of the Russian Government issued the following statement on Chechnya on Saturday:

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"According to reports from the mobile information center, the situation in the Chechen Republic remains complex and largely acute. The leaders of illegal armed groups continue to brainwash the local population, disseminate misinformation about the federal troops' actions and organise rallies where people who have allegedly 'seen the atrocities and violence committed by the Russian soldiers' speak. Militants continue provocative actions against civilians in order to prod them to put up resistance to Russian troops. Just southeast of the settlement of Komsomolskoye, they have repeatedly put a tank which fired on the federal troops and the settlement center. As a result, six civilians were killed and five wounded.

"Interior Ministry troops continued the search and investigative efforts to find the militants' arms caches. Yesterday, they found and confiscated mines, grenades and other ammunition in the apartment of one of the Groznyy residents, a former Chechen policeman who fought against the federal armed forces.

"Pursuant to the plan of action to settle the crisis in the Chechen Republic, adopted by the Russian Government on March 14, 1995, the territorial administration in the Chechen Republic has started specific work in this direction. As Nikolay Semenov, head of the territorial administration, told the mobile information center, a powerful specialised construction organisation, Glavspetsstroi, led by Deputy Minister Albert Marshev, has been set up, with the assistance of the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, in Groznyy in order to restore the engineering systems and clean up the rubble.

"With the participation of specialists from the territorial administration, a plan of urgent measures has been devised for Groznyy which has been divided into 13 sectors. Thirteen contractors have been invited to carry out the plan.

"One of the most mobile and well equipped contractors, which is ready to start the work without any preconditions (security, living conditions), is the Stavropol-based company Glaga Grant headed by Russia's prominent innovator Gamlet Aramelyan. He has suggested an original method to restore the Starosunzhenskaya water feeding plant and other facilities to provide steady water supplies to Groznyy. With timely funding, the builders from Stavropol will be ready to resume water supplies within ten days."

War To Continue 'Until Last Chechen Is Killed'

LD1803193595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Mar 95

[Report by correspondent A. Vitels; including recorded comments by commander of Chechen troops Aslan Maskhadov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text]

[Vitels] According to an AFP correspondent, throughout Friday night and Saturday morning fighting was raging at the approaches to Shali. The federal troops there are 6 km away from the town, which has been turned into a stronghold of Dudayev's men, and are conducting artillery shelling along the entire front line. This was the response to the prospect of losing Shali from commander of Dudayev's forces Aslan Maskhadov:

[Maskhadov] Before this the Russians tried to create the illusion that as soon as they captured the presidential palace in Groznyy the war would be over. Then it was: The war will be over when we cross the Sunzha River; then: The war will be over when we capture [word indistinct]. Now they say the same about Shali. So what about Shali? Even if they do capture it, what next? The war will continue until the last Chechen is killed.

[Vitels] Other reports suggest that not all Chechens share the desire to die for General Dudayev.

Administrator Cited on Normalization Costs

LD1803180695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1742 GMT 18 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, North Ossetia March 18 TASS—Russia has contributed 12.5 billion roubles (about 2.6 million U.S. dollars) to the territorial administration in Chechnya to pay overdue salaries of the employees of state organisations.

Nikolay Semenov, head of the territorial administration, told ITAR-TASS on Saturday that cash has already been delivered to the Nadterechniy, Shelkovskoy and Naurskiy districts of Chechnya. The authorities have also resumed paying pensions. A total of 8.5 billion roubles (about 1.7 million U.S. dollars) have been earmarked for this purpose, he said.

The Russian government plans to provide over five trillion roubles (about one billion U.S. dollars) in 1995 to restore the devastated Chechen economy. Under the restoration programme, Groznyy will be divided into 29 sectors. Each sector will have a specialised organisation to rebuild housing, communal services, medical, social and cultural facilities.

The Rostov and Volgograd regions of Russia and the Donetsk region of Ukraine have offered their help. However, Semenov said that "we will try to use the construction potential of the northern Caucasus in the first place."

"This will be cheaper because of transportation costs. Besides, there are big industrial capacities there (in Chechnya) and specialists with whom we built Groznyy and created the industrial potential of the republic," he said.

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Meanwhile, work is underway in Chechnya to resume railway transportation severed by more then three-month fighting.

Earlier today, Russian military commanders met with the residents of the settlement of Sernovodskoye to discuss issues related to the resumption of railway traffic between the Sleptsovskaya and Samashki stations.

This section of the railway has become a target for Chechen militants who are seeking to prevent the resumption of traffic by all means, the press center of the Russian troops in Chechnya said.

Over the last three days alone, they blew up two railway bridges, the press center said. The militants have also terrorised the local population.

However, on Friday, March 17, a train with repair teams reached the settlement of Samashki, although militants tried to stop it by firing on it from an armoured vehicle, the press center said.

Assault on Argun, Gudermes Predicted for Next Week

MK1803103095 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 18 Mar 95 pp 1, 2

[Report from Groznyy-Mozdok by Yuriy Zaynashev: "Argun Spring. Rumors Spread by President Have Not Been Confirmed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although President Yeltsin claimed 22 January that the conflict in Chechnya was entering its peaceful stage, Russian soldiers continue fulfilling their immediate mission—they are fighting there. Early next week the federal troops are expected to mount a crucial offensive on the city of Argun, about 40 km east of Groznyy.

The group of Russian troops in Chechnya and around it is 200,000 men strong. The grouping of the interior troops (Internal Affairs Ministry) is about 18,000. The Russian side has 150 artillery pieces. Interior troops are mostly combing the streets of Groznyy, guarding the railway (to the station of Chervlenaya), and main roads to Mozdok. This is extremely dangerous work. But the 100th Interior Troop Division, which actually does the fighting, is having a much tougher time: it is attacking the western group of Chechen fighters occupying the area of Samashki-Bamut-Assinovskaya on the border between Chechnya and Ingushetia.

Army units have been divided into the "North" and "South" groupings. The "Southerners" are concentrated on the western outskirts of Groznyy. They were ordered to advance along the road to the west so as to meet the 100th Interior Troop Division in the area of the Samashki forest. In command of the "Northerners" is a well-known general, Ivan Babichev, whose command post is located on Groznyy's eastern outskirts, in the airport of Khankala. It is this grouping that is in for the hardest task of taking by assault the well-fortified cities of Argun, Gudermes, and the new Chechen capital of Shali.

It is around these three cities that the second main group of Chechen fighters is located. The Russian command in Mozdok proceeds from the assumption that the overall strength of the Dudayevites is 15,000 men.

According to Russian intelligence, after the fighting in Groznyy Dzhokhar Dudayev still has 30 tanks and 15 multiple launchers at his disposal. By the Russian command's estimates, during the three months of fighting a total of 1,200 Chechen fighters and about 1,000 guns have been destroyed and about 900 Dudayevites have been detained (that is, taken prisoner). These data of the Mozdok headquarters are strikingly different from official reports.

On 14 March, the Chechens proved that they have kept formidable forces intact even after Groznyy's fall. Without waiting for the federal troops to mount an offensive, the Dudayevites launched a counterattack on the Argun axis. It is hard to say how many peaceful civilians remain in Argun itself. Bombs were first dropped on it 4 December. A week later Russian troops approached the city from the north and since then Argun has repeatedly been shelled.

Nonetheless, General Anatoliy Kulikov, commander of the joint group of forces in Chechnya, proceeds from the assumption that there are still many ordinary civilians left in the city. He has told journalists that he would be very reluctant to order the shelling of Argun. But the Dudayev forces are not going to leave the city, so a bombardment is inevitable.

In Mozdok, they have intercepts of Aslan Maskhadov's radio conversations, which indicate that the Chechen General Staff planned to conduct the war in three stages. The first stage was to defend Groznyy and to keep federal troops from penetrating Chechnya's heartland, where guerrilla bases were to be prepared. The second stage is the defense of Argun, Gudermes, Shali, and the Achkhoy- Martan district. Having lost the first stage and bracing for a defeat at the second, the Chechens have already embarked on the third one—guerrilla attacks throughout the republic. Actually, in Groznyy the Chechens have already switched to these tactics as they fire on Russian posts and commandant's offices every night. Despite promises by Moscow politicians that "there will be no guerrilla war," generals in Mozdok assert that it has already broken out.

One cannot say that no Russian troops have been withdrawn from the republic at all. Two military units that displayed particular valor during the fighting have currently been moved to the rear. They will now be drilled in the run-up to the anniversary V-day parade on Poklonnaya hill [in Moscow].

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Groznyy Authorities To Aid WWII Veterans

LD1903132995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1238 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 19 TASS—The Press Service of the Russian Government made available the following report to ITAR-TASS on Sunday [19 March]:

"According to a report by the mobile information centre, Mayor Beslan Gantimirov of Groznyy stated on Sunday that everything will be done for the veterans and invalids of the great patriotic war to mark the 50th anniversary of the great victory decently in the reviving Chechen republic. Gantimirov also emphasised that the veterans will have priority in receiving moral and material support.

"Prior to the armed conflict in the Chechen republic, there lived more than 20,000 WW2 veterans. However, lately, many of them abandoned their homes and the veterans' organisations broke up. A council of the World War Two veterans and disabled soldiers is reemerging in the Chechen republic simultaneously with the re- establishment of peaceful life.

"The mayor's office of Groznyy has provided the veterans' council with premises, has determined a procedure for the provision of the disabled with medicines, prosthetic devices and humanitarian aid. The administration and the commandant's offices of districts and towns in the Chechen republic have also arranged for patronage over WW2 veterans and the disabled.

"V. Zorin, deputy head of the territorial administration of federal executive power bodies in the Chechen republic, has reported that measures are already being taken to finance activities connected with the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the great victory and that lists of World War Two veterans are are being compiled for them to be able to receive gifts, jubilee awards and monetary allowances provided for by the law on veterans".

Militants Trying To Discredit Federal Forces

LD1903125795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 19 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, North Ossetia, March 19 TASS—Dudayev supporters, losing Chechnya population's support, try to discredit the actions of Federal Forces in any way.

A group of specially trained militants from unlawful armed formations has arrived in one of Chechnya border areas with a view to organising provocations. They wear the uniform of Russian servicemen, the press centre of the Command of the Joint Group of Federal Forces announced on Sunday.

Meanwhile, participants in a peace march, which started from Moscow on March 8 on the initiative of the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers and a number of public and religious organisations, are currently passing through the area.

Warplanes Bomb Shali; 'At Least' Four Dead

AU1903153095 Paris AFP in English 1515 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shali, Russia, March 19 (AFP)—At least four people were killed and more than 10 wounded Saturday when Russian warplanes bombed the centre of Shali, 20 kilometres (12 miles) southeast of the Chechen capital Groznyy.

Two bombs exploded around 4:15 p.m. (1315 GMT) in a central district of the city, devastating around 20 houses, an AFP correspondent reported.

Federal Troops Launch 'Major Offensive'

LD1903172195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Federal troops have launched a major offensive on Dudayev's strongholds in Chechnya—the towns of Argun, Gudermes, and Shali—Movladi Udugov, minister for press and information in Dudayev's government, reports. He said that these settlements have been under constant air and missile attack since yesterday evening.

[Begin Udugov recording] The Russian Army, using all the armed forces available in Chechnya, plus aviation, armored equipment, and all artillery systems except (?tactical) missiles, have started a large-scale offensive along the whole front, with the aim of taking the towns of Argun and Gudermes and the area occupied by the Shali tank regiment. Fighting started in all these areas at about 1700. It is too early to say what will happen, but the Russian convoy has started to move. [end recording]

An AFP correspondent has confirmed that there have been air strikes on Shali. He says that at least four have been killed and over a dozen injured as a result of the attacks. Meanwhile, the press center of the Defense Ministry has told us that they know nothing about the attack by Russian troops in Chechnya.

Interior Troops Replace Army Troops

LD1903192595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOZDOK, RUSSIA, Mar 19 (Interfax)—Russia has by now withdrawn all its army troops from Chechnya's capital Groznyy, having replaced them with Interior Ministry forces, a ministry source said on Sunday.

The Interior Ministry troops may also leave to be superseded by pro-Russian Chechen police, the source told Interfax in Mozdok, North Ossetia.

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He said the situation in Groznyy had on the whole been quiet over the past 24 hours, with no fighting registered either within the capital or in its suburbs. Nor had the Russians shelled separatist positions in Shali or Gudermes, the source said.

He said the Russian command was still waiting for a Chechen response to proposals made on March 13, when it was suggested that the Chechens immediately stop fighting, release all their war prisoners, hand over the bodies of the killed to be buried according to custom, surrender their heavy weapons, go back to their homes and make Groznyy a demilitarized area.

In return, the Russians promised to respect Chechen national traditions and customs and the rights of the rebel region's entire population. The Russian military insisted that Chechnya's population have self-defense detachments until local government bodies were formed and offered pledges that they would neither move troops into towns or villages whose population ceased armed resistance nor prosecute those who had not taken part in it.

But the Russians "cannot wait endlessly," because the Chechens are taking advantage of the current lull to "restore their strength and build engineer fortifications," the source said citing what he referred to as reconnaissance data.

Press Service Reports Russian Bombing

LD1903192395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Mar 19 (Interfax)—According to the press service of the Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, since 4 a.m. on Sunday Russian jets have bombed the settlement of Argun and the adjacent areas of Chechen-Aul, Stariye Ataghi, Noviye Ataghi, Germenchug, as well as suburbs of Gudermes (to the east of Groznyy) and the settlement of Shali (north-east of Groznyy).

According to the Chechen side, air raids continued for 12 hours.

In addition, according to the Chechen armed forces headquarters, a large Russian armed grouping, deployed between the villages of Prigorodnaya and Berdykel and having 250-300 pieces of armored technology, started advancing by 4 p.m., on March 19, towards Argun. Simultaneously, a column of tanks of Russian troops started advancing towards the settlements of Shali and Stariye Ataghi. Several dozen pieces of armored vehicles also advanced towards Gudermes from the side of the village of Dzhalka along the line of Argun-Dzhalka-Gudermes and engaged in fighting with Dudayev formations.

Meanwhile, according to the Interior Ministry sources in Mozdok, there was no intensive fighting in Chechnya on Sunday.

Duma Commission To Inquire Into Causes of Crisis

LD2003060395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0558 GMT 20 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 20 TASS—On Monday the circumstances of the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime's advent to power will be the subject of an open meeting of the State Duma commission for inquiry into the causes of the emergence of a crisis situation in the Chechen Republic.

Galina Starovoitova, Doku Zavgayev, Mikhail Poltoranin, Gennadiy Burbulis, Mikhail Gorbachev, Valentin Stepankov, and Viktor Barannikov have been invited to attend the parliamentary commission meeting.

Troops Retreat From Argun 19 March

LD2003131395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1116 GMT 20 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, Mar 20 (Interfax)—Two columns of armored vehicles of federal troops attempted to attack later in the day on Sunday the town of Argun and the settlement of Stariye Ataghi, a spokesman for the Dudayev armed forces headquarters told Interfax. At 5 p.m., at the approaches to these settlements, there was "fierce fighting", claim Chechen sources.

The spokesman said that "intensive fighting" continued approximately until 9 p.m., after which advance groups of federal troops retreated to the initial positions and started intensive shelling of volunteers' positions. The shelling was conducted by artillery pieces and by salvo systems "Uragan" and "Grad". There are casualties among volunteers and civilians, claim the Chechen sources.

The Dudayev headquarters expect another offensive by federal troops by the morning on Monday.

Meanwhile, according to the Russian Interior Ministry's sources in Mozdok, there was no active fighting in Chechnya on Sunday.

Artillery, Air Strikes on Villages Reported

LD2003115395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1138 GMT 20 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok (North Ossetia) March 20 TASS—Russian artillery and air force inflicted strikes on concentrations of Dudayev's armour and gunmen near the towns of Starye Atagy, Argun, and Mesker-Yurt over the past 24 hours, ITAR-TASS learnt on Monday at the press centre of the Russian troops' command in Chechnya.

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According to the press centre, Russian troops frustrated attempts by gunmen to organise defences in the area of Shaami-Yurt.

Federal forces occupied nearly the entire valley south of Groznyy and approached close to Starye Atagy from the West. Gunmen of illegal armed detachments retained under their control only a seven- kilometre section of terrain separating Russian troops from the town. There are no casualties among federal forces over the past 24 hours.

Trans-Siberian Oil Pipeline Bursts; Danger of Explosion

LD1803073795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0630 GMT 18 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Irkutsk, 18 Mar—A big accident has occurred on the Trans-Siberian oil pipeline, west of the town of Tulun in Irkutsk. A flaw formed in the trunk pipeline on Friday [17 March] and an estimated 3,500 tonnes of oil spilled on the ground.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the regional headquarters for civil defense and emergencies that it was possible to close the oil pipeline by means of valves. However, the distance between them is 27 km, and all of the fuel in this area could end up on the surface. The situation is compounded by the fact that the East Siberian Railway runs alongside, and the oil slick threatens to catch fire. Moreover, not far way is one of the tributaries of the River Iya, which runs into the reservoir of Bratsk hydroelectric power station.

A commission has flown out to the accident for a realistic assessment of the incident and to take the necessary measures.

Estimated 1,000 Tonnes of Oil Lost

LD1903115595 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Mar 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the most accurate latest information, about 1,000 tonnes of oil poured out onto the surface of the ground as a result of the accident that occurred on Saturday [18 March] on the Trans-Siberian oil pipeline in Irkutsk Oblast. The Transneft specialists carrying out restoration work at the site of the accident hope to finish it by Monday. This was reported today by the RIA-NOVOSTI agency.

Repair Teams Prepare To Clean Up Spill

LD1903153095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1515 GMT 19 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodyy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Irkutsk March 19 TASS—Russian repair teams have begun preparations for a clean-up operation near the town of Sulun, Irkutsk region, where the trans-Siberian oil pipeline suffered a major spill on Friday.

Some 3,500 tonnes of oil gushed through a rupture in the main.

Regional civil defence officials told ITAR-TASS that the ruptured section had been cut off by slide-valves, but the span between the valves is 27 kilometers and there is a risk of more leaks.

Things have been made worse by the risk of inflammation of the oil spill in the vicinity of the east Siberian railway.

A commission dispatched from Irkutsk to the site of the incident to study the situation on the ground said that the bulk of oil streamed into a ravine near the trans-Siberian railway line, but part of it leaked onto the ice covering the river Kurzanka, a tributary of the river Iya which feeds water for the Bratsk hydroelectric power plant.

Members of the commission, which includes representatives of the regional civil defence, ecological, sanitary, fire and other emergency services, said that the oil slick on the ice is about 1.5 kilometers long.

Aleksandr Kamenskiy, head of the regional civil defence service, told ITAR-TASS on Sunday that the oil fountain gushing from the burst pipe was stopped by 22:00 local time on Saturday.

It has been decided to divide the oil-filled ravine into three sections by dams and start pumping the oil out into a steel pipe.

Specialists believe that they will be able to recover two thirds of the spilt oil, while the rest will need to be burnt in order to prevent it from leaking into the Iya.

Economic Issues

Finance Ministry To Toughen Control of Investment Companies

LD1303172695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 13 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Mar 13 (FIA-Interfax)—The Russian Finance Ministry believes it necessary to toughen its control of the activities of investment companies with foreign capital.

Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Kazmin told the Financial Information Agency (FIA) Monday that the requirements to investment companies wishing to work with stocks on the Russian market must be comparable to those put forward to commercial banks. "It cannot be so that one sector of the market experiences a too strict control, while another one enjoys a privileged regime. There will be certain equalization," he added.

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As an example, Kazmin referred to the requirement to commercial banks to compulsorily reserve part of attracted funds, which does not exist for investment companies.

Kazmin emphasized that his ministry will toughen control over the investment companies with foreign capital, especially if there are private investors among their founders. "If it is not a specialized company which never before dealt with stocks, it will be subject to certain restrictions of its activities. We believe that such companies cannot be entitled to work with people's money," he added.

Government Approves Investment Program; Urinson Comments

LD1603215495 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Mar 95

[Natalya Chernysheva report; from the "Vremya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today's meeting of the government aroused mixed feelings. On the one hand, the Economics Ministry, which presented a harsh investment program, is satisfied; on the other hand, many of those present in the hall are dismayed at the severe cuts in capital investment for the coming year. The main principle underlying the declared state investment policy is that only 20 percent will come under centralized investment. And here:

[Begin Ya. M. Urinson, first deputy minister of economics, recording] It is not a question of sharing out money from the federal budget. Seventy percent of the money from the federal budget is to go only to social projects. Only five or ten percent of the programs are eligible for a share of budget money. That is all there is. [end recording]

This all that Mr. Urinson mentions comes to 15.9 trillion rubles [R]. The minimum amount requested by the ministries is R73 trillion. Therefore, they chose the areas that are most important for the country.

[Begin Urinson recording] All the money needed for production construction should come from amortization, from profits, from second emissions, from bonded loans. It is necessary to work in this direction and not beg money from the budget. [end recording]

However, sectoral leaders believe that this principle could lead to catastrophic consequences. For example, the Ministry of Transport threatens to close the White Sea Canal and the northern ports; the Ministry of Atomic Energy warns of dangers to nuclear stations.

However, as Viktor Chernomyrdin noted, R15.9 trillion is all that the government has, and one has to proceed from that. The state program was adopted. However, the figures show that investment in industry will continue to decrease in 1995 and one can discuss changes in society only after such investment begins to rise.

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International Affairs

Kuchma Accuses Russia of 'Fudging' Debt Figures

WS1703110995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0001 GMT 17 Mar 95

["Special to INTELNEWS" by Viktor Kovalenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, March 16—President Leonid Kuchma accused Russia on Thursday [16 March] of cheating Ukraine of billions of dollars by fudging the figures involved in the huge Ukrainian national debt to Russia.

"Starting from 1992, Russia has been 'twisting us around its finger'—duping us by charging larger sums than the true debt of Ukraine to Russia. And by now, Russia has actually defrauded us of $2.5 billion," he said following a meeting he held with German Ambassador Alexander Arnot at which European Union Economic Council credits for Ukraine were discussed.

This is one of the reasons behind Ukraine's present difficult economic situation and a reason why foreign credits are especially needed by Ukraine at this time, the President said.

Ukraine's debt to Russia, which is estimated for 1994 alone to be $1.8 billion, is a continuing source of tension between the two countries.

Kuchma's remark comes at a time of increasing speculation as to whether the visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Kiev—tentatively scheduled for later this month—will be postponed.

Speaking Wednesday to journalists, Kuchma said he didn't try to confirm the date of the Yeltsin visit when he met Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin last week at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen.

"I didn't even ask Chernomyrdin about this and I won't do it anymore," he said. "This visit was planned for three dates and each time it was postponed."

Russian Embassy Team in Crimea To View Citizenship

WS2003104695 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0148 GMT 20 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, March 19—The consular group of the Russian Embassy arrived in Simferopol on Friday [17 March] to settle the issues connected to Crimeans obtaining Russian citizenship.

Russian Embassy Consular Department Chief Myhkail Hlushkov said the visit was coordinated with the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry. The Russian and Ukrainian sides discussed the procedure of accepting Russian citizenship.

In its activity, the consular group will adhere to the 1961-1963 Vienna Convention on consular relations, Hlushkov said, which stipulates the strict enforcement of local legislation in consular relations between countries, including citizenship issues.

According to his estimates, 300,000 to 500,000 Crimean residents want Russian citizenship and Russia "is ready to start working on giving the opportunity to these citizens to file for their passports."

Hlushkov did not clarify whether the acceptance of Russian citizenship would nullify a person's Ukrainian citizenship. He also did not divulge the official number of Crimean residents who applied for Russian citizenship.

In an interview with RUSSKAYA MYSL, a Simferopol-based newspaper, Abdulakhim Mikitaev, who heads Russian President Boris Yeltsin's Committee on Citizenship Matters, said the "provision demanding the surrender of citizenship of other countries was excluded from the Russian Citizenship Law. This maneuver by Russian lawmakers to give double citizenship does not exist de jure, but exists de facto."

Ukrainian law excludes the right to double citizenship. According to the Ukrainian Law On Citizenship, if a Ukrainian citizen did not officially renounce his or her citizenship by Nov. 13, 1991, he or she is considered a Ukrainian citizen.

Crimea May Call on Russian Cossacks

LD1803161795 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon deputies of the Crimean Parliament in Simferopol continued to discuss the situation that had taken shape owing to Kiev's abolition of Crimea's Constitution. According to news from RIA it is not to be ruled out that the parliamentarians will address a request to the Russian cossacks to monitor the situation on the peninsula and, should it be necessary, prevent clashes between the power structures [of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Internal Affairs, Defense, and Security] of Kiev and Simferopol.

According to information from the leadership of Crimea's Supreme Council, an emergency sitting of the military council of the Black Sea Fleet [BSF] took place today in Sevastopol.

Parliament Discusses Black Sea Fleet

LD1703175195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 17 Mar 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Mar 17 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—The Ukrainian parliament on Friday [17 march] ordered that relevant ministries and departments, before April 10, work out a draft agreement

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between Ukraine and Russia on the legal status for the presence in the Crimea of the Black Sea Fleet.

According to the text of the parliament resolution, the agreement must also determine the status of the Fleet's servicemen and their families, who have Russian citizenship.

At the same time, the parliament annulled the resolution of the Crimean parliament on the creation of a regional branch of the Ukrainian state property fund.

Besides, the parliament ordered that the Ukrainian National Bank step up checking and managerial functions towards the republic's Bank of the Crimea and all commercial banks of the peninsula and ensure that they observe the Ukrainian laws.

The Ukrainian Cabinet and the Crimean government are to do land surveying in the Crimea and adopt the program of employment of Crimean Tatars.

A total of 316 deputies voted in favor of the resolution, nine against and eight deputies abstained.

'Personnel Policy' Discussed With FRG Military

AU1703155595 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 16 Mar 95 p 2

[Report attributed to the FRG Embassy in Ukraine: "Military Officials Hold Discussions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, German Federal Ministry of Defense delegation headed by General Staff Colonel Schmieder is completing its three-day visit to Kiev. The members of the delegation held talks on personnel policy issues at Ukraine's Ministry of Defense. Legal principles of work with army personnel, principles of registering personnel, as well as the topics: "contract servicemen" and "reservists" were discussed.

National Affairs

Reportage on Abolition of Crimean Constitution, Presidency

Crimean Constitution Abolished

LD1703131895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 17 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viklot Demidenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev March 17 TASS—The Ukrainian parliament abolished the constitution of the Crimean republic today.

The parliament ruled that until a new constitution of the autonomous republic is adopted, Crimea shall be strictly under Ukraine's legislation.

Kuchma Backs Abolition of Presidency

LD1703134895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1315 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—In a speech at a Ukrainian Supreme Council session, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma backed the draft resolutions under parliamentary consideration. Separatism is at the forefront of the Crimean authorities' activity, which is precisely what can have unforeseeable consequences mentioned by [Crimean parliament speaker] Serhiy Tsekov, he said. He added Ukraine's executive and legislative authorities could not be accused of failing to try and meet Crimea halfway and resolve all problems. Leonid Kuchma concluded that today's deliberations could initiate joint work for the benefit of the Ukrainian state.

Moroz Supports Constitution Abolition

LD1703140195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1250 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Supreme Council of Ukraine Chairman Oleksandr Moroz described Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov as "a mirror image of inconsistencies in the legal status of Crimea." Oleksandr Moroz supported the resolutions abolishing Crimea's constitution and presidency, saying that this will enable the parliament of Ukraine to help resolve all existing legal problems of the autonomy.

Oleksandr Moroz added that the Supreme Council of Ukraine resolution on the autonomy of Crimea, passed in 1992, was the only possible solution, as there was a threat that this autonomy could have become part of another state.

Crimean Speaker Protests Ban

LD1703141195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1250 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Serhiy Tsekov, chairman of Crimea's Supreme Council, has voiced a resolute protest in connection with the Ukrainian Supreme Council's decision to abolish the Crimean Constitution and presidency. He complained that the Crimean side had not been informed of the Ukrainian parliament's plans. The status of Crimea had been approved in a referendum and confirmed by the Ukrainian parliament, and the Ukrainian president was the first official to meet the president of Crimea, whose election evoked no objections in Ukraine at the time, Tsekov recalled.

He said the Crimean parliament was ready to submit a new draft constitution of the autonomous republic any time.

"The Ukrainian parliament's decisions came to us as a surprise. They are unprecedented and will aggravate the relations between the Crimean republic and Ukraine," said the Crimean speaker. He stressed that the approval

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of resolutions to abolish the Crimean presidency and constitution would provoke "serious steps by the Crimean parliament."

Tsekov said he favored compromise and would try to prevent the situation deteriorating in any event. The Crimean speaker said he had been told about the proposed Ukrainian resolutions only ten minutes before the start of the session, which he believed signified lack of mutual trust between the two legislatures. Confrontation will make it impossible for Ukraine and the Crimean Republic to solve complex problems, Tsekov stressed.

Meshkov: 'No Action' Against Parliament

LD1703171595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov "will take no action over what has been decided by the parliament of Ukraine," Oleksandr Frolov, Supreme Council of Crimea deputy chairman, has quoted the president of Crimea as saying. "I cannot comment on the Supreme Council of Ukraine Crimea decision until I see the official documents," he told a briefing of parliamentary presidium and secretariat members and journalists.

Oleksandr Frolov said he had given orders to reinforce the guard at the Supreme Council of Crimea. He added that there will be no interference in the situation by the Black Sea Fleet.

It is expected that Yuriy Meshkov will at 2000 issue an official statement on this Ukrainian parliament resolution.

'Indignant' Citizens Gather at Parliament

LD1703191595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1627 GMT 17 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 17 Mar—Groups of citizens indignant at the decision of the Supreme Council of Ukraine to revoke the Constitution of the Crimea began to gather around the parliament of Crimea in Simferopol this evening. Reinforced National Guard details are patrolling the streets adjacent to it.

Oleksandr Frolov, deputy chairman of the Crimean parliament, told journalists that he had issued instructions to step up the building's guard. However, he did not issue instructions to put the militia and military units on the alert since he was convinced that there would not be any disturbances in the town. President Yuriy Meshkov, who has promised not to take any actions, also gave assurances on this.

Meanwhile, the president's administration is preparing an appeal by him to the people of Crimea, the thrust of which, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told, is this: The republic's constitutional system is unshakeable because the people are behind it.

A working conference of members of the presidium and apparatus of the Crimean parliament has just ended. Those assembled confirmed that the deputies have been forewarned to be ready to appear at an extraordinary session tomorrow. However, the decision to convene it has not yet been taken.

Supreme Soviet Seeks Charges Against Meshkov

LD1703182795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1720 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Mar 17 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)—The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has instructed the country's prosecutor general to open a criminal case against Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov on charges of power abuse. The parliament called on the Ukrainian president to annul Crimean legislation which is inconsistent with Ukrainian law.

The Ukrainian Justice Ministry jointly with Defense, Economy, Finance and Foreign Ministries has until April 10 to draft an agreement between Ukraine and Russia on the legal status on Ukrainian soil of the Black Sea Fleet, on its servicemen and their families having Russian citizenship and on compensation to Ukraine.

The government is told to take stock of Crimean land resources jointly with the Crimean government and to work out a program for resettlement of Crimean Tartars.

The decision passed by parliament repeals the Crimean parliament's resolution "On the Regional Branch of the Ukrainian State Property Fund and on State Property in Crimea and the Assets of Union Public Organizations in Crimea."

The National Bank of Ukraine is told to make the Crimean Republican Bank and all commercial banks abide by Ukrainian legislation, in particular on banks and banking activities.

The government has until May 1 to increase the pay of servicemen and law enforcement personnel in Crimea.

The Prosecutor General's office jointly with the State Property Fund, the Interior Ministries and the Security Service of Ukraine will have until May 1 to check observance of Ukrainian legislation on privatization and acquisition of real estate by foreign commercial organizations in Crimea and legitimacy of sales of the Black Sea Fleet's assets and infrastructure.

The Justice Ministry jointly with the Foreign and Interior Ministry have unit April 10 to take steps to resolve the situation resulting from variance in Crimea and Ukrainian legislation on citizenship.

The Interior Ministry and the Security Service will cooperate with the National Guard and Defense Ministry units and the Prosecutor General's Office in combatting organized crime in Crimea and abolishing armed gangs there.

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A Ukrainian parliament ad hoc commission will continue studying the situation in Crimea.

The parliament presidium will supervise implementation of this resolution.

The resolution was carried in a 316-9 vote with eight abstentions.

Moroz Interviewed on Crimean Situation

LD1703211495 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After the Ukrainian Supreme Council session on 17 March, at which documents on Crimea were adopted, our correspondent interviewed Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz.

[Begin recording] [Moroz] The law on revoking the constitution and some laws of the autonomous Crimean republic is an extremely important one. This is a form of resolving the general problem, and it sets out, firstly, the preparation of a new text of the Crimean constitution, which will be approved by the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

It sets out that the constitution of the autonomous Crimean republic, adopted by the Supreme Council of the autonomous Crimean republic on 6 May 1992, is revoked, together with any subsequent amendments and additions. It also revokes the autonomous Crimean republic's laws on the election of a president of the Crimean republic of 18 September 1993, the law on the president of the Crimean republic, the law on restoring the constitutional principles of the Crimean republic's statehood, the autonomous Crimean republic's constitutional law on the Crimean republic's [words indistinct], the law on the election of deputies and chairmen of village, settlement, rayon, and town councils—I have just spoken about this—as such that contravenes articles and the said articles of Ukraine's constitution and laws.

Thus, this resolution also sets out the procedure for putting this law into practice, in fact the external sign of the adoption of this law or the external result, which is perceived by television viewers and voters in general, including those residing in Crimea, is that as from today, in fact as from tomorrow morning, the institution of the president of Crimea is abolished, the powers of the Supreme Council of the autonomous republic of Crimea in its current composition are confirmed, and so are the powers of the autonomous Crimean republic's government. That is, there are simply no intimations of disorder, which some commentators are saying. This right is safeguarded, the power structures are working and have the opportunity to exercise their right within the boundaries of the administrative and territorial autonomy—the autonomous Republic of Crimea—and within the framework of the Constitution of Ukraine.

I should say that it was not an easy decision. We respect the will of the Crimean electors who cast their votes in favor of the president. Perhaps the authorities of Ukraine failed to make the timely steps they should have made in relation to instituting a presidency in Crimea. However, the developments after the election of the president show that this was a mistake. And, without encroaching on the rights of the electors and citizens of Crimea whatsoever, and showing respect for the rights of Yuriy Meshkov himself—as a citizen whom the electorate entrusted with such a lofty mission—nonetheless, taking into account the objective situation, assessing the situation in Crimea without bias, and assessing the prospects for its development, we were trying to warn both the citizens of Ukraine as a whole and the residents of Crimea against undesirable developments. And therefore, proceeding from the norms of international law, the norms of our Constitution, and using the experience of our neighbors, we deemed it necessary to prevent the development of the process in an undesirable direction. [end recording]

Special Purpose Troops Surround Parliament

LD1703203895 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Yevgeniy Novikov has just reported from Simferopol that a plane carrying 200 special purpose troops from the Berkut division arrived in Simferopol from Kiev at approximately 2200. General Valeriy Chernyshov, deputy interior minister of Ukraine, is leading the task force.

Several dozen special purpose troops have surrounded the Supreme Soviet of Crimea and demanded that the troops guarding President Yuriy Meshkov hand over their weapons. At 2230, the government hot line in Yuriy Meshkov's office stopped working. In the opinion of Aleksandr Spakhov, the president's adviser, it is not ruled out that the Supreme Soviet building will be seized by Ukrainian special purpose troops during the night.

Meshkov Appeals to People To Keep Calm

LD1803051095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0355 GMT 18 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov—UKRINFORM]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 18 Mar—A closed session of the Presidium of the Crimean Supreme Soviet ended last night. A decision was made to discuss the situation resulting from the abolition of the Crimean Constitution by Ukrainian Supreme Council, at an emergency session today.

Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet of the Crimean Republic announced the convocation of a session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet late Friday evening after returning from Kiev, where he took part in the plenary session of the Ukrainian Supreme Council. But a quorum could not be gathered.

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Then the decision was made to hold a session of parliament at 1000 this morning. If this again proves impossible, the emergency session will be put back to 1500.

"We have many unresolved questions, and I shall not leave the building of the Crimean Supreme Soviet until I have resolved them," S. Tsekov told journalists categorically.

S. Tsekov's meeting with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has just ended. After it was over, the Supreme Soviet speaker announced: "The president of the Crimea is legitimate. Only the Crimeans can decide his fate."

Yu. Meshkov has made an appeal to the populace of the Crimea. The statement says:

"Unfortunately, there are forces endeavoring at any price to destabilize the situation in the Crimean Republic, which is testified to by the legislative acts of the Ukrainian Supreme Council. Responsibility for these decisions lies entirely with the bodies of state power of the Ukraine." The president called on the citizens to maintain their endurance and remain calm.

Meanwhile, local news sources report that outside the Crimean president's office a post of Ukrainian security officers has been set up. Moreover, on Friday internal Crimean government communications were switched off in Yu. Meshkov's office.

Crimean Parliament Session Opens

LD1803082995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0739 GMT 18 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Krasnov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 18 Mar—At an extraordinary session of the Crimean parliament which opened in Simferopol at 10 o'clock [0700 GMT] deputies are today discussing the situation that has arisen in connection with the abolition of the Crimean Constitution by the Ukrainian parliament.

Taking part in the session's work are Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Sergey Tsekov. [passage omitted]

Meshkov's Guard Surrenders Weapons

LD1803101695 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] All but one telephone have been disconnected on the premises of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, and the guards have surrendered their automatic weapons and transportation, a UKRINFORM correspondent reported from Simferopol late in the evening on 17 March.

The center of Simferopol is calm. Militia details and the Supreme Council of Crimea guard have been stepped up.

Emergency Parliament Session Held in 'Isolation'

LD1803103295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0952 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Mar—The emergency session of the Crimean Supreme Council is taking place in Simferopol in a situation of virtually total isolation from the outside world. ITAR-TASS was informed on the telephone by Oleksandr Spakhov, the Crimean president's adviser for information analysis and the press, that the parliament building, where the session is being held is ringed by Ukrainian special purpose troops and there is no radio or television relay of the session.

"The representatives of the Ukrainian military," Oleksandr Spakhov said, "have categorically banned the radio and television from relaying of the session. The building housing the television and radio center and also the local radio station has been occupied by special purpose troops."

Speaking at the opening of the session Yuriy Meshkov, Crimean president, expressed a categorical protest over Kiev's position in relation to Crimea. "The decisions of the Ukrainian Supreme Council are based solely on force. We must not travel along this path." He said that the decision by the Ukrainian authorities to abolish Crimea's Constitution was a "lawless use of force."

Supreme Council To Develop 'Action Plan'

LD1803105495 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As our correspondent has reported, an extraordinary session of the Crimean Supreme Council in Simferopol has been addressed by Crimean Supreme Council Chairman Sergey Tsekov. He described as "illegal and unconstitutional" the decisions of the Ukrainian authorities in relation to the Crimean Republic and urged deputies not to carry out these decisions. Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, who spoke at the session, proposed that the deputies take appropriate measures in their response to official Kiev. The Crimean parliamentarians supported their leaders' speeches and, following a recess at 1400, they intend to work out the Supreme Council's plan of action in the present situation.

The deputies do not rule out the possibility that the Crimean parliament will have to lift the moratorium on a referendum on the republic's independence and to turn to the Russian leadership for help.

Meanwhile, the press center of the Black Sea Fleet has reported that Eduard Baltin, the fleet's commander in chief, is closely watching the development of events. However, he has received no instructions thus far from the Russian leadership as to how to respond to the development of the Ukrainian-Crimean conflict.

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Our correspondent has been unable to confirm an AFP report on the lifting of the blockade of the Crimean Supreme Council building.

Crimean Town Reps Picket Parliament

LD1803112795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [no dateline as received]—Serhiy Tsekov, chairman of Crimea's Supreme Soviet, told the participants in the session how the decision to abolish the Crimean Constitution was made by the Ukrainian Supreme Council. The deputies who spoke afterward described this decision of the Ukrainian Supreme Council as "unbalanced," "emotional," and "not taking into account the realities of the present day, the Crimeans' aspirations and fundamental interests."

On Friday [17 March], an aircraft carrying men of the Ukrainian "Berkut" spetsnaz [special purpose] detachment arrived in the Crimea. At the present time the spetsnaz and detachments of Ukraine's National Guard are also blockading the buildings of the television center and the radio broadcasting center in Simferopol.

Representatives from Sevastopol, Yalta, Kerch, Feodosia, and Alushta are picketing the Supreme Soviet building today, carrying the flags of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Crimea. The participants in the action—and there are more than 200 of them—are demanding that the statehood of Crimea be protected, and that a referendum on issues relating to the independence of Crimea be held immediately. They are also insisting that the Crimean Supreme Council Session be broadcast on radio and television.

Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov has just made a speech to the pickets. He called upon the participants in the action to remain calm, and noted that a way out of the situation that has taken shape must be sought, using constitutional methods only.

Pro-USSR Rally Demands Kuchma Resignation

LD1803132995 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1230 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sevastopol, 18 Mar—A rally in Sevastopol has demanded Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's immediate resignation, accusing him of "failing to fulfill the wish of the Ukrainian people to restore the Soviet Union." In the wake of yesterday's decision by the Supreme Council of Ukraine to outlaw the Crimean Republic's Constitution and presidency, the rally condemned these actions by the Supreme Council of Ukraine as "aimed against the statehood of Crimea."

Marking the fourth anniversary of the union-wide referendum on the future of the USSR, the rally demanded that the Supreme Councils of Ukraine and Belarus, and the State Duma of the Russian Federation should annul the Belovezhskaya Pushcha agreement as criminal and anticonstitutional, while Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kravchuk, and Stanislaw Shushkevich should be held criminally responsible as political adventurists who caused the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Organized by the Communist Party of Crimea Sevastopol branch, the Working Sevastopol movement, and the All-Crimean Movement of Electors for the Republic of Crimea, the rally also called for an end to the "criminal division of the Black Sea Fleet, a guarantor of the security of the southern frontiers of all Black Sea republics."

Meshkov Condemns Supreme Council Action

LD1803140195 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1312 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An extraordinary session of the Supreme Council has been in session in Crimea since early morning. It is taking place in complete isolation from the outside world, since there is no television and radio broadcasting and the parliament building is surrounded by Ukrainian special purpose troops. Thank goodness the telephone is working. Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov himself made this statement to Mayak today.

[Begin Meshkov recording] A strong-arm decision has been adopted by the Ukrainian Supreme Council. It sweeps away the negotiating process needed to resolve a conflict of this type. It would seem quite improbable that the post of president of the Republic of Crimea is being abolished, but the source of power of the president of Crimea is the same as the source of power of the Ukrainian Supreme Council and the president of Ukraine, which is the will of the people. By recognizing this will as invalid, they also cast doubt upon their own powers. Even this situation did not stop them from adopting a decision that has nothing in common with the law, with legislative norms.

In a word, I would say that this is a thoughtless, desperate attempt to eliminate the republic by abolishing the post of president of the Republic of Crimea. I think that this is the assessment of the public in our republic and of the Crimean Supreme Council. I hope that public opinion in the Russian Federation and official circles in Russia will not remain indifferent to it. We are very much counting on their assistance and support in what has been a very difficult year for the Republic of Crimea. [end recording]

That was Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. The session has not yet ended. Therefore, we do not know what decision the Crimean parliamentarians have made.

As far as Moscow is concerned, Ivan Rybkin has already stated that this is Ukraine's internal affair, toward which Russia, however, cannot remain indifferent.

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Meshkov, Tsekov Satisfied With Talks

LD1803150495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, Mar 18 (Interfax)—Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov and Crimean parliament speaker Serhiy Tsekov have voiced satisfaction with their late Friday night's talks in Simferopol.

A source in Crimean parliament has quoted Tsekov as saying at the meeting: "Crimea's President is legitimate, and his fate is only for the people of Crimea to decide. This is my position, and we parted at this until tomorrow."

The source recalled that the crisis of power had occurred in Crimea last autumn just because of the aggravated differences between Tsekov and Meshkov.

At the 1994 presidential elections in Crimea, Meshkov gained more than 70 percent of the votes cast.

Ukrainian Minister: Situation 'Calm'

LD1803151095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, Mar 18 (Interfax - Ukraine)—"The situation in Crimea following the Ukrainian parliament's decision to annul Crimea's Constitution and presidency was calm in the morning of March 18," Ukrainian Deputy Interior Minister Valeriy Chernyshov said upon his arrival to Crimea Friday [17 March].

In an interview with Interfax-Ukraine, he confirmed that 200-strong special purpose police squad Berkut had arrived in the peninsula from Kiev. If needed, the squad will be able to solve any task, depending on the situation in Crimea.

However, Chernyshov said that the decision to deploy Berkut in Crimea had been made by the head of the Ukrainian Main Interior Department in Crimea, Viktor Kirichenko, long before March 17.

Chernyshov dismissed the media's reports of a blockade of the Crimean parliament. At the same time, he admitted that "security guards were inside the building."

Chernyshov said the Crimean presidential guard had obeyed to the Ukrainian order and given up arms Friday night.

Measures will be taken to maintain the public order during the expected unauthorized rallies in Simferopol Saturday, Chernyshov added.

However, only about 30 supporters of ousted Crimean President Yuri Meshkov gathered in front of the parliament building at noon, he said.

At the same time, unofficial sources argued that about 150-200 people from Sevastopol, Yalta, Alushta and other regions of Crimea gathered there. The demonstrators carried Russian and Crimean flags and demanded a referendum on the status of Crimea, the peninsula's return to Russia and stronger support from Moscow.

Tsekov Urges 'Balanced' Response to Kiev's Move

LD1803162395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1527 GMT 18 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol March 18 TASS—Deputies of the disbanded Crimean parliament had to force their way through cordons of Berkut special force units which have sealed off the parliament building after Kiev abolished Crimean presidency and constitution on Friday [17 March].

Paratroopers checked deputies' cars on the approaches to the parliament building, comparing their names against the list of those who "have the right to enter the parliament." Ukrainian authorities have also banned television broadcasts from the Crimean parliament emergency session summoned immediately after Kiev's move.

Parliament Chairman Serhiy Tsekov said that the Crimean delegation invited to Kiev had not been informed about what issues would be discussed. In addition, many Ukrainian deputies were also unaware of the approaching crisis. However, this did not prevent them from voting for imposing sharp limitations on the Crimea's powers, he said.

"But we need to take what has happened in a calm and balanced manner in order to find the only way out from this situation and preserve the republic's statehood," Tsekov said.

At the same time, he admitted that the Crimean parliament had made a mistake by adopting a law on the delimitation of powers between Simferopol and Kiev instead of signing a power-sharing agreement with Kiev.

Tsekov denied that Kiev's decision had been prompted by the Crimean Government which had allegedly used personal relationships between Crimean Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

In his opening remarks to the session, Crimean leader Yuriy Meshkov voiced harsh protest against Kiev's manner of treating The Crimea.

"The decisions of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet (parliament) rest only on force. We must not take this path," the president said. He described the Ukrainian parliament's resolution abolishing the Crimean Constitution as "lawlessness of force".

Meshkov, removed from presidency by Kiev's ruling on Friday, said that "there is a temptation to respond to Ukraine's actions in the same way. But our responsibility

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for the lives of the republic's citizens does not allow us to pursue this path." He urged the deputies to adopt a balanced and weighted decision based on international norms.

In his address to the nation, Meshkov pointed out that "regrettably, there are forces which strive to destabilise at any cost the situation in the Republic of Crimea, as is indicated by the enactments of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet. All responsibility for such decisions lies on the Ukrainian state authorities."

Meshkov said that only constitutional means must be used in handling the crisis.

Crimean parliamentarians in their speeches described Ukraine's move as "unweighed", "emotional" and "disregarding the realities of today, wishes and key interests of the Crimean population".

Some 200 delegates from Sevastopol, Yalta, Kerch, Feodosiya and Alushta organised a picket near the parliament building. Waving Russian and Crimean flags they demanded protection of the Crimea's statehood and a referendum on independence of the Crimea. They pickets also urged resumption of television and radio coverage of the Crimean parliamentary sessions.

"The Ukrainian parliament's decision regarding the Crimea is unconstitutional. Even from the point of view of Ukrainian laws," Yuriy Podkopayev, a member of the Crimean parliament, said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

According to Podkopayev, Kiev's decision aims at "destabilising the situation in the Crimea". The deputy also denounced the abolition of the law on Crimean presidency and presidential election.

"Depriving the Crimea of its constitution means depriving it of the status of a republic," Yuriy Zyryanov, another member of the parliament's presidium, said. "But not all is lost even now as the negotiating process between the two parliaments still lies ahead, and it can regulate relations without unnecessary complications," he said confidently.

The deputy thinks that despite the prevailing situation, no moratorium should be put on referendums on the independence of the Crimea, as has been demanded by "some hot heads".

Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, assured that "the abolition of the Crimea's Constitution and the law on autonomy of that republic by the Ukrainian parliament will not have no impact on Ukraine's relations with Russia." This is "our internal problem, and we are resolving it in conformity with the country's constitution and the norms of international law," he said.

Moroz also brushed off assertions that neither representatives of the Crimea nor Russian observers were ready for such a turn of events. "Our decisions were no surprise for anybody," he emphasised. "A parliamentary commission of Ukraine has been working in the Crimea since May 1994, and has been constantly "watching processes there," he added.

The speaker recalled that the Ukrainian parliament twice considered the so-called "Crimean issue" and gave specific dates and instructions to the Supreme Soviet of the autonomous republic to bring its legislative acts in line with the Ukrainian legislation. "As is known, this did not happen," Moroz said.

Responding to the events in the Crimea, Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Russian State Duma Committee for the CIS, demanded on Friday that all visits to Ukraine planned by Russian officials should be suspended in connection with Kiev's decision to ban the constitution of the Crimea.

Zatulin told the Duma that the decision of the Ukrainian parliament had been prompted "by a desire to use the situation when Russia is deeply involved in Chechnya."

The lawmaker insisted that Russia should suspend all economic relations with Ukraine and demand immediate return of all debts.

Crimean Journalists Deny Troop Blockade

LD1803170895 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Crimean Union of Free Journalists has issued a statement in which it expressed protest against the report saying that Ukraine's special-purpose troops blockaded the building of the Supreme Council of Crimea, which was circulated on 18 March by ITAR-TASS and other mass media.

This report does not correspond to reality and the leadership of the Crimean law enforcement bodies disproved it, the statement says.

The Crimean journalists believe that, from the point of view of journalist's ethics, the spreading of blatant misinformation, which does not contribute to stabilizing the already complicated situation in the Republic of Crimea, is inadmissible.

The Crimean Union of Free Journalists warns news agencies against using unverified data received from dubious sources.

Deputies Appeal to Kuchma, Yeltsin, Duma

LD1803181395 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Mar 95

[Video report by correspondents Anna Konyukhova and Viktor Sasnovskiy from Simferopol]

[FBIS Translated Text] Approximately 300 people attended an unsanctioned demonstration today. The population of Crimea's capital is on the whole playing a

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waiting game and observing events, although in private conversations people express dissatisfaction and concern at the steps taken by Kiev.

Parliament gathered for an emergency sitting this morning. The press was allowed to remain in the hall, but the leadership of Ukrainian TV and Radio Broadcasting forbade broadcast of the session, explaining that this was out of a desire not to worsen the political situation. Debates on how to get out of the prevailing situation are continuing while this report is on the air. Deputies have different opinions. However, all agree that a way out must be sought through negotiations with Kiev.

This morning several agencies received information, signed by presidential adviser Aleksandr Spakhov, about a blockade of the parliament building by special police detachments. In fact, there are reinforced Crimean militia units around the White House. They can also be seen on the town's streets and around the radio and TV committee building. The situation in the town is calm. Journalists are receiving information about demonstrations being prepared in other Crimean towns.

During the night all the telephones of the president and his administration were cut off; half their vehicles were confiscated and the guard disarmed.

The decision taken yesterday in Kiev had an effect on Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's behavior. For the first time in nine months, journalists from out-of-favor agencies and TV companies received an invitation and accreditation for a meeting with the president. During the day Yuriy Meshkov addressed deputies. Many journalists interpreted his speech as a call for a referendum. In an exclusive interview for NTV, Yuriy Meshkov denied this accusation:

[Begin Yuriy Meshkov recording] I did not say this word; I only appealed to deputies of the Crimean Supreme Soviet with a request that they realize the importance of the decision being taken by the Crimean Supreme Soviet for relations between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine, and to a significant extent the objective effect of this decision on mutual relations between Ukraine and Russia. [end recording]

Anna Konyukhova and Viktor Sasnovskiy from Crimea, especially for NTV.

[Announcer Mikhail Osokin] The latest news just as our correspondents were broadcasting from Simferopol. The Crimean parliament's deputies have decided to appeal to the Ukrainian parliament and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma. The deputies have not yet reported the details of this appeal. However, we do know about another appeal adopted by the deputies—to the Russian Duma and president. The appeal to the Duma in particular contains a request not to conclude the agreement between Russia and Ukraine without considering the interests of the Republic of Crimea and its citizens.

Meshkov: Kiev Wants Solution 'By Force'

LD1803181895 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government in the Crimea has expressed regret about the decision taken yesterday by the Ukrainian parliament to annul the Crimea's constitution and presidency. Speaking at the extraordinary session of the Crimean parliament that opened on Saturday morning, the Crimean president Yuriy Meshkov and the speaker of the parliament Sergey Tsekov ordered the territory's population to remain calm and rely only on discretion.

The Russian news agency INTERFAX reported Mr. Meshkov as saying that Kiev wanted to settle the differences with the Crimea by force, not by law as it should be. He also said that since he was elected president by the Crimea's people, Kiev could not rescind the decision.

During the session the parliamentary building was surrounded by Ukrainian special troops. The Ukrainian authorities also banned radio and television broadcast of the Crimean parliament session.

In the meantime the Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma has said that the aim is not to delineate the Crimea's autonomy but to ring the territory's legislation in line with Ukraine's constitution. For the past few years Ukraine has been accusing the Crimea of separatism and secession plans.

Meshkov Criticizes Kiev Deputies' Decisions

LD1803175195 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Meanwhile, in an exclusive interview to our correspondent, Yuriy Meshkov has expressed his own view on the decision made by the Ukraine deputies. In particular, he said:

[Begin Meshkov recording] Our attitude to the decisions of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet is strictly negative. The point of view is the same as that of the majority of the Crimeans, judged from the results of sociological public opinion polls held in 1992-95. The citizens of the Republic of Crimea want relations with Ukraine to be conducted on a treaty basis and double citizenship instituted. They want to restore ties with Russia and have a right to decide their fate by peaceful, democratic means.

In my opinion, shared by many, the state authorities should always bear in mind the long-term consequences of their decisions. I consider the decisions taken by the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine more emotional than rational, so to speak. It is very likely that they were dictated by the negative development of the economic and political situation. An attempt is being made at destruction, stage-by-stage, of the institute of power in Crimea and, eventually, of the Crimea's statehood.

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I spoke at the session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet and urged deputies not to succumb to emotions, consider all the issues in accordance with international legal norms and both Ukraine's and Crimean constitutions and, of course, within a framework of the law on delineation of power. Nevertheless, I believe in Crimean people's common sense and fortitude and, at the same time, the common sense of the Ukraine bodies of state power. Otherwise, the short-term political success might turn into a drawn-out conflict, which will be difficult to solve. [end recording]

National Guard Denies Meshkov Home, TV Blockade

LD1803180195 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press service of Ukraine's National Guard commander has denied reports by the Russian mass media that guardsmen had supposedly been blockading the Crimean president's residence and the television center. The press service stated that servicemen of the Simferopol detachment of Ukraine's National Guard have not left their places of permanent deployment during 18 March and are in their barracks.

Deputy Premier Leads Economic Delegation to Crimea

LD1803182295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—On 19 March Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Volodymyr Plitin flies to Simferopol with a group of deputy ministers. UNIAN was informed about this at the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

The aim of the visit is to resolve economic issues that were discussed at a conference held by Crimea's Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk right after the end of the extraordinary session of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

Crimean Deputies on Possibility of Referendum

LD1803182595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—At an extraordinary session on 18 March the Crimean Supreme Council stated to the parliaments and presidents of Ukraine and Russia its readiness to lift the moratorium on a Crimean-wide referendum on the status of Crimea. The Crimean Supreme Council appealed to the world community with a request to be the guarantor of the holding of this referendum.

The Crimean Supreme Council recommended that the official authorities in Moscow do not sign the treaty between Russia and Ukraine without taking account of the interests of the Crimean republic.

The Crimean Supreme Council proposed that the Ukrainian Supreme Council concludes a wide-ranging treaty between Ukraine and the Crimean republic.

The Crimean Supreme Council addressed a proposal to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to be the guarantor of this treaty.

Fifty-one deputies voted for the statement, 27 voted against it, three deputies abstained, and seven did not vote [at all].

The rest of the issues will be discussed by the Crimean Supreme Council on Wednesday 22nd March.

Crimean Deputies Approve Wording of Appeal

LD1803203695 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1935 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 18 Mar—At the evening sitting the Crimean deputies adopted a statement appealing to the president and Supreme Council of Ukraine, and also to Russia's Federal Assembly, the Russian president, and the OSCE. They will continue to examine other documents connected to the current situation at a regular plenary sitting of the session this Wednesday.

People's deputy Tetyana Ryabchykova read the draft statement. The document particularly emphasizes:

"The residents of Crimea, the prevailing majority of whom are Russians or Russian speakers, have especially suffered because of the loss of contacts with their historical homeland, Russia. They never agreed with the unjust deportation of the whole of the Crimean peninsula together with its population without its consent in February 1954 from the Russian Federation to Ukraine. The elections in January-April of last year confirmed this again, when the Russian idea and its proponent, the 'Russia' electoral bloc, won. At the same time as elections to the Supreme Council on 27 March the residents of Crimea practically unanimously expressed themselves in favor of restoring the constitution of the Crimean republic, and for dual citizenship too on 6 May 1992. The Crimean parliament is now being blamed for this desire to carry out the will of its electors by Ukraine's Supreme Council and higher state officials.

"This is being done not by mere chance. On the eve of concluding a large-scale treaty between Ukraine and Russia, the Ukrainian side would very much like to deprive Crimea of statehood and resolve the problem of the status of Crimea, Sevastopol and the Black Sea Fleet independently, without the residents of Crimea, as it was done in 1954."

The Crimean deputies appeal to the president and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation not to conclude a treaty between Russia and Ukraine without taking into account the interests of the Republic of Crimea and its citizens: to the Supreme Council of Ukraine with a proposal to conclude a large-scale treaty

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between Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea of 6 May 1992; to the president of Ukraine with the proposal to become a guarantor of concluding such a treaty in compliance with his program and election promises.

The document also says that the moratorium on an all-Crimean referendum on the status of Crimea will be lifted if the parliament of Ukraine takes hasty and rash decisions connected with the dissolution of the Supreme Council of Crimea. The deputies appeal to the president and the Supreme Council of Ukraine, to the president and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and to the World Community to be guarantors of holding the referendum.

The document was approved without amendments.

Meshkov's Telephones Cut Off

LD1903111095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0920 GMT 19 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 19 Mar—"The situation in the capital of Crimea is absolutely calm," Valeriy Astakhov, president of the 'Crimea' state television and radio company said today to the ITAR-TASS correspondent in a telephone call from Sevastopol. According to him, only a small group of people—about 20—are standing in front of the Supreme Council building with posters and leaflets, peacefully discussing the recent events.

Valeriy Astakhov confirmed that yesterday several OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] personnel were indeed inside the television and radio company's premises. But, first of all, this was not the Ukrainian, but Crimean OMON, he stressed. Second, the OMON's task was not to block the television and radio center, but to prevent armed people from infiltrating its territory. "This is always being done when situation becomes serious, because the television and radio company does not have money to employ its own security," Valeriy Astakhov said.

Reports of the calm situation in the city were confirmed to the ITAR-TASS correspondent by Rimma Lebedeva, a Crimean Supreme Council duty officer, in a conversation. According to her, Supreme Council Chairman Serhiy Tsekov is not in the building at the moment.

It is not possible to contact Yuriy Meshkov, the president of the republic, because all the communication lines in his home are cut off, including the city telephone line. [passage omitted]

Demonstrations Support Crimean President

LD1903161895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1416 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CRIMEA, Mar 19 (Interfax)—Meetings are being held in Crimea in support of President Meshkov, the Crimean president's advisor Oleksandr Spakhov told Interfax.

Picketers carrying Russian and Crimean flags gathered near the building of the Crimean parliament and the president's residence on March 19. They chanted: "Referendum! Crimea! Russia!", "President, We are With You!", "We Shall Protect Crimea's State System!".

A meeting began in Kerch today under the motto of the reunification of the fraternal Slavic peoples. The participants are voicing their support for the Crimean president and state system.

Sources in Sevastopol, Yalta, Kerch and other cities report that money is being raised to finance the trip of delegates to Moscow to ask for the Russian president's and parliament's support. Another delegation will be sent to Kiev.

Spakhov said that signatures are being collected in support of the Crimean president.

A meeting in support of Meshkov and the Crimean state system was to be held in Feodosia on March 18. However, the authorities banned the meeting and only members of the Republican Party gathered for a conference. It was attended by more than 100 people.

An unauthorized meeting was held in Yalta in front of the building of the City Executive Committee. The meeting was dispersed by the police.

Spakhov told Interfax that Yuriy Meshkov has practically been deprived of telephone communication. The president's guards surrendered weapons, but are staying with him in his residence. Meshkov is being permanently guarded by two external security guards.

Crimean Officials: Simferopol 'Calm'

LD1903151095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1446 GMT 19 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Agabekov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow March 19 TASS—"The situation in the capital of the Crimea is absolutely calm," Valeriy Astakhov, head of the Crimean Television and Radio Broadcasting Company told ITAR-TASS via telephone on Sunday, following the Ukrainian parliament's decision abolishing the Crimean presidency and Constitution.

Astakhov said that only a small group of people, carrying posters and leaflets, is standing on front of the parliament building and peacefully discussing the recent events.

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He confirmed, however, that several OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] special police force men were inside the television center on Saturday. At the same time, he pointed out that they were members of the Crimean OMON, not of the Ukrainian one, adding that their task was to prevent armed people from entering the center, rather than blockading the center itself.

"This is always done in a situation like this because the television and radio broadcasting company has no means to keep armed security," Astakhov said.

It was reported on Saturday, however, that deputies of the disbanded Crimean parliament had to force their way through cordons of Berkut special force units which sealed off the parliament building.

Paratroopers checked deputies' cars on the approaches to the parliament building, comparing their names against the list of those who "have the right to enter the parliament." Ukrainian authorities also banned television broadcasts from the Crimean parliament emergency session summoned immediately after Kiev's move.

Rimma Lebedeva, a Crimea parliament duty officer, also confirmed that the situation in the Crimea remains calm. She said that Parliament Chairman Sergey Tsekov is not in the parliament building now, and that it is impossible to get in touch with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov because his apartment has been cut off from all communications lines.

However, presidential aide Aleksandr Spakhov told ITAR-TASS that Meshkov is in his office and is chairing a meeting.

He also said that rallies in support of the Crimean president and the Constitution were held in the towns of Sevastopol, the main base of the disputed Black Sea Fleet, Kerch and Feodosiya.

The situation in the Crimea worsened on Friday after Kiev abolished Crimean presidency and Constitution.

Crimean deputies held an emergency session on Saturday to discuss the situation. They blasted Ukraine's move as "unweighed", "emotional" and "disregarding the realities of today, wishes and key interests of the Crimean population".

In his opening remarks to the session, Meshkov voiced harsh protest against Kiev's manner of treating the Crimea.

"The decisions of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet (parliament) rest only on force. We must not take this path," the president said. He described the Ukrainian parliament's resolution abolishing the Crimean Constitution as "lawlessness of force".

Meshkov said that "there is a temptation to respond to Ukraine's actions in the same way. But our responsibility for the lives of the republic's citizens does not allow us to pursue this path." He urged the deputies to adopt a balanced and weighted decision based on international norms.

He also cautioned the deputies to use only constitutional means to resolve the crisis.

The Crimean lawmakers did not adopt any decision, agreeing to adjourn until March 22, but reiterated their determination to seek the restoration of the Crimean Constitution abolished by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.

In their resolution, they called on the Ukrainian parliament to "conclude a comprehensive treaty between the Crimea and Ukraine" and "preclude attempts to solve the Crimea's problems by force."

The deputies said they are ready to hold a referendum on the Crimea's status.

Under the law adopted by the Ukrainian parliament, "the Autonomous Republic of Crimea is an administrative and territorial autonomy within Ukraine, which shall act within the boundaries of the former Crimean region."

The law says that the constitution of the Crimean Republic is an integral part of Ukraine's legislation and cannot contradict its Constitution. All modifications and amendments to the Crimean Constitution take effect only after they are approved by the Ukrainian parliament.

According the law, the city of Sevastopol, which is the main base of the Black Sea Fleet, shall not be part of the Crimean Republic and its status shall be determined by the Ukrainian legislature.

Kiev's Decisions 'Blasted' by Tsekov

LD1903191795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, Mar 19 (Interfax)—Last Friday's decisions by the Ukrainian parliament which curtailed Crimea's autonomy were blasted on Sunday [19 March] by the head of the peninsula's legislature.

The decisions to abolish the presidency and constitution in Crimea are "unprecedented and unknown in world practice, they bring down the status of the Republic of Crimea to that of an autonomous region," Serhey Tsekov complained in a local television program.

"It's simply intolerable to show such disdain for the will and aspirations of the Crimeans," he said.

"The (Crimean) presidency is today a legitimate institution and only the electors themselves have the right to decide what to do with it," Tsekov argued.

He said Crimea's parliament was going to consider re-establishing the post of president.

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As for a moratorium on a referendum on Crimea's status declared by the autonomous republic's government, that is easy to lift but "there are no guarantees that it (the referendum) will be carried through," Tsekov said further on. He expressed confidence, however, that, if a referendum did take place, the peninsula's population would back deposed president Yuriy Meshkov.

Tsekov accused Kiev of continuing to put pressure on Meshkov. He said members of the presidential staff, including its chief, Pyotr Chernyatevich, had been deprived of their office cars by order of the Ukrainian government.

Tsekov Objects to Soskovet's Kiev Trip

LD1903192195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, Mar 19 (Interfax)—Chairman of the Crimean parliament Serhey Tsekov believes that Russia's First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets "has no right to go to Kiev until relations between Crimea and Ukraine have been settled." "Such a trip would be unprincipled," he told Interfax in an exclusive interview on Sunday [19 March].

"The cancellation of the visit might make the Ukrainian leaders think, as Ukraine largely depends on Russian resources," he said.

As we reported earlier, Soskovets is flying out to Kiev on Monday to prepare President Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine.

Tsekov announced that "the Crimean parliament will not make any hasty moves in response to the Ukrainian parliament's decision to annul the Crimean constitution and presidential post."

The Ukrainian parliament's decision is "thoughtless and inexplicable from the point of view of common sense," he went on to say. "Talks should have been held first. There was ample opportunity for that, at least during the past three months," said Tsekov.

He also said that the Ukrainian deputies' "unprecedented decision will jeopardize the settlement of relations between Crimea and Ukraine, and the stabilization of the situation in Ukraine in general." "Undoubtedly, it will tell negatively on relations between Ukraine and Russia," he added.

He also announced that he had discussed the situation in Crimea with high-ranking Russian politicians, but did not give their names. In his opinion, "Russia's position on the situation in Crimea is passive instead of being tough."

"Seventy percent of the Crimean population are Russians. There is no neglecting this fact," he said.

Commenting on the statements by State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin and his deputy Mikhail Mityukov to the effect that the situation in Crimea is Ukraine's "internal affair", Tsekov said that "it is not an internal affair of Ukraine, because human rights are violated." "How can one look at the Crimean residents' wish to maintain close contacts with Russia as Ukraine's internal affair?" he said.

In his opinion, "the situation in Chechnya gave certain trumps to the Ukrainian leaders, and the decisions of the Ukrainian parliament are strongly connected with the Chechen events."

Among other causes of the current situation he named "the growth of pro-Russian forces in the Crimean parliament and the decision by the Crimean parliament that the Crimean government present a report on its work, taking into account family relations between Ukrainian and Crimean leaders" (the son of Crimean premier Anatoliy Franchuk is married to Ukrainian president Leonid Kuchma's daughter).

"We are ready to hold an all-Crimea referendum on the status of Crimea on the condition that the necessary guarantees are provided," said Tsekov. He admitted that "the decisions of the Ukrainian parliament had been influenced by the mistakes made by the Crimean president and parliament, and confrontation between them."

Tsekov said that not more than 300 Ukrainian special force members were in Crimea.

Report Views Situation in Crimea

LD2003103595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 20 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol March 20 TASS—All's topsy-turvey in Crimea, to rephrase Leo Tolstoy's famous phrase. What is Crimea? A republic? But its Constitution has been declared null and void. The president is in his office to hold conferences and make statements but the Crimean presidency has been abolished.

Kiev made a leap ahead of Simferopol, by unexpectedly rescheduling the hearings on the political and legal situation in the Crimea from March 23 to March 17. Simferopol was getting ready to stand its ground on March 22, the day on which its parliament was due to hear the government report on "work done".

Kiev acted in a rush. While the vote on the annulment of the Crimean Constitution was still being taken in the Ukrainian parliament, but all communication lines had already been cut off in Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's office, including the city telephone line, and an aircraft carrying two hundred soldiers of the rapid deployment group Berkut led by Deputy Interior Minister Valeriy Chernyshev had already taken off.

In Simferopol the group placed guards at the radio and television centre and sent patrols to the streets near the parliament building.

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On the whole, local inhabitants have reacted feebly: Most of them are sick and tired of endless clashes inside the power structures of the republic.

What has the Ukrainian parliament taken away from Crimea? It proclaimed the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea null and void and told Crimea to obey Ukrainian legislation until a new constitution is adopted.

Kiev has abolished the Crimean presidency and instructed Ukraine's chief prosecutor to decide on instituting criminal proceedings with respect to Yuriy Meshkov whose actions, in the word of the parliament resolution, "contain signs of a crime (abuse of power or office)". Crimea's status has been changed. It is now an administrative territorial autonomy within the boundaries of Ukraine. Sevastopol is proclaimed to be no a part of Crimea. The Ukrainian parliament has assumed the right to decide on pre-term dissolution of the Crimean parliament.

In other words, Crimea has been returned to a state similar to that when it restored its autonomy as a result of a referendum it held on January 20, 1991.

The Crimean parliament would not put up with this regress. At its emergency meeting on Saturday, the Crimean parliament adopted a statement stressing that it would never put up with the loss of the constitution and of Sevastopol.

The parliament also adopted an appeal to the president and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation asking them not to sign the political treaty with Ukraine without first taking into consideration the interests of the Republic of Crimea and of its citizens.

Meshkov on 'Serious and Tense' Situation

LD2003112895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1052 GMT 20 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correpondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 20 Mar—I am elected by the people and no resolutions will stop me from exercising my duty, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov stated today at a news conference. He outlined his view of the situation that has developed after the Ukraine Parliament abolished the Constitution of the Crimean Republic as well as the post of the president of Crimea.

Meshkov described the situation as "serious and tense" although, in his words, nothing has changed in Crimea and we would not have any revolts or riots here. The president stressed that he established business-like cooperation with the Crimean Supreme Council but admitted that it is difficult to work because he and the parliament were forced into extreme conditions by the decision of the Ukrainian authorities.

Petr Chernyatevich, head of the Crimean president's administration, has officially denied today that Meshkov intends to go to Moscow. All the president's team will also remain at their posts, he said.

Economic Issues

Joint Oil Venture Finalized With Tatarstan

WS2003103995 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0807 GMT 20 Mar 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On March 16, a working group of the Cabinet of Ministers and the National Committee on Gas, Oil, and Oil Refining, headed by Vice Prime Minister Volodymyr Plitin, finalized its version of the statutory agreement on the creation of the transnational (Ukraine and Tatarstan) company UKRNAFTA ("Ukrainian Oil") and its statutes. Drafts of these documents were sent to Ravil Muradov, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Tatarstan.

Amendments regarding the procedure of payments, as well as the list and characteristics of oil fields and enterprises to be contributed to the statutory capital of the company, had to be agreed upon by December 15, 1994. However, the approval of documents was postponed due to changes in the legislative status of the member companies and difficulties in the determination of volumes of the Tatar oil extraction and distribution. The Ukrainian side in the UKRNAFTA company is represented by the Ukrainian joint- stock company KREMENCHUKUKRNAFTAORHSYNTEZ ("KREMENCHUK UKRAINIAN OIL AND ORGANIC SYNTHESIS"), and the Republic of Tatarstan is represented by the joint-stock company TATARNAFTA ("Tatar Oil"). The company plans to refine eight tonnes [as received] of oil with high sulfur content (over 3.5 per cent) per year. It is expected that the statutory capital of the company will be halved between the two founding countries.

Crimea, Zaporozhye Oblast Sign Economic Accord

LD1903131095 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of the Republic of Crimea and the Zaporozhye Oblast Council of People's Deputies have signed a protocol of intents on fruitful and mutually advantageous cooperation. After profound negotiations with the participation of leaders and specialists of certain industries and industrial enterprises, Crimean Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk and Vyacheslav Pokhvalskyy, chairman of the Zaporozhye Oblast Council, signed the protocol.

The negotiations centered around three issues: Joint use of underloaded capacities of the Zaporozhye state district power station and additional supplies of electricity

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to Crimea, which is only receiving 15 percent of its electricity; expansion of the network of automobile and spare part dealers and automobile maintenance services provided by joint-stock society Avtozaz [Zaporozhye automobile works]; and the possibility of using unoccupied production areas at Crimean industrial enterprises for the production of the Tavriya automobile and electric cars on its basis.

The point of the matter is that, during the last six months of 1994 two powerful gas and fuel oil generating sets of the Zaporozhye state district power station, with an output of 800 Mw each, stayed idle for lack of fuel. There exists today a real possibility of arranging regular supplies of gas to Energodar [Zaporozhye Oblast] from Crimea where another borehole is to be commissioned in March.

In their turn, Zaporozhye power engineering workers could supply electricity at prices acceptable for both sides through the Energodar-Melitopol-Simferopol power line whose current-carrying capacity is 600 Mw. The fuel and energy consortium Rehion [Region] could be instrumental in establishing such ties. The consortium has already incorporated industrial enterprises, insurance companies, banks, and other subdivisions of Zaporozhye, Dnepropetrovsk, Donetsk, Lugansk, and a number of other Ukrainian oblasts. Now it will be supplemented with Crimean enterprises.

In accordance with the protocol of intents, signed as a result of the negotiations, the government of the Republic of Crimea took on the task of involving Crimean enterprises in the Rehion consortium; arranging gas deliveries to ensure the operation of one generating set at the Zaporozhye state district power station in exchange for the deliveries of electricity produced at that station; resolving the problems that face the people of Zaporozhye in connection with the sales of grain of the 1995 harvest to the oblast; and establishing preferential rates of payment for land under children's health centers, holiday camps, and sanatoria that belong to Zaporozhye enterprises and that are located on the territory of Crimea.

In its turn, the Zaporozhye Oblast Council pledges to resolve issues of producing electricity for Crimea using the production capacities of the Rehion consortium; to ensure urgent deliveries of equipment manufactured by the oblast's Pivdenhidromash [South Hydraulic Machine-Building] plant, Pivdendyselmash [Southern Diesel Machine-Building] Association, and some other enterprises for the needs of Crimea.

It has been decided that the issue of arranging the assembly of automobiles of the Avtozaz [joint-stock society] at Crimean enterprises and expanding the network of its dealers and servicing centers on the Black Sea shores will be considered already in March.

The contracting parties have appealed to Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma to support their mutually beneficial initiative and promote it in every way possible.

These are genuine problems, and a genuine example of cooperation between Crimea and Ukraine.

Simferopol To Be Supplied by Black Sea Gas

954F1784A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 95 p 1

[Report by V. Kustov: "Second Line of Glebovka—Simferopol—Sevastopol Gas Main Will Be 175 Kilometers Long"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One may say that this construction project is moving ahead full speed: Specialists of the Kiev SMU [construction-erection administration]-15 of the Ukrgazstroy general contracting company have already welded, insulated, laid in troughs, and covered with earth, with subsequent landscape restoration, 52 km of pipe; in other words, almost one-third of the pipeline is ready for exploitation. In addition, 40 km of cable communications have been laid, and another 53 km of gas main will be ready within the next month and a half or two.

The customer who commissioned the construction of the second line is the Chernomorneftegaz state production enterprise; design documentation was done at the Crimean State Research and Design Institute (NIPIshelf).

The new line's capacity will be 1.115 billion cubic meters of blue fuel a year, and design flow-through capacity of 6.35 million cubic meters a day.

Originating at the Glebovka underground gas storage (where, as is known, it comes mainly from stationary sea platforms operating on the Black Sea shelf), the new gas main will run through Chernomorskiy, Sakskiy, Simferopolskiy, and Bakhchisarayskiy Rayons and Sevastopol.

The project envisages the construction of branch gas lines to villages Vilino and Suvorovo of Bakhchisaraysky Rayon and gas-distribution station No. 3 in Sevastopol (Simferopol—Sevastopol). A 12.2 km segment to Frunze village in Sakskiy Rayon already is in operation. Housing for operators already is being built in Vilino and Sevastopol.

What is the main purpose of the second gas main? Stable supply of blue fuel for Simferopol and the hero city. Construction should be completed in 1996. In order to accomplish it, 700 billion karbovantsy need to be appropriated.

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Belarus

Lukashenka on Policy, Legislature, Election

WS1703160095 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1940 GMT 15 Mar 95

[Interview with President Alyaksandr Lukashenka by unidentified correspondents from the Information Agency of the Belarusian Television and Radio Company on 15 March; place not given—recorded; Lukashenka speaks in Russian]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] One year has passed since the new Constitution of the Republic of Belarus was adopted. In your opinion, what changes have taken place over this period?

[Lukashenka] As you know, new bodies of power have appeared—I mean the vertical structure of presidential power, personified by the leaders of oblast, rayon, and city executive committees. They are no longer subordinated to the soviets; they are subordinated to the president through a definite hierarchy. It is also known to you.

Undoubtedly, we are beginning to pay more attention—just only beginning—to legal aspects of our society's life. The Constitution make us think that we are living in a law-governed state. Of course, I am far from stating that we are already living in a law-governed state. No, we are just beginning to think that we have to live in a law-governed state and that there is no way out of it. Therefore, in this aspect, there is some shift in the consciousness of our people, public and governmental officials, and so on.

I would say that, following the adoption of our Constitution, our life has become more dynamic. At any rate, the election of the president and an active position of the executive branch... [pauses] For the time being, this branch, so to say, is just beginning to stand on its own feet. It has not yet begun to operate to the full extent. Taking full advantage of this opportunity, I would like to say that people very often address me and say: Alyaksandr Ryhoravich, you have chosen a wrong man. You should have replaced everybody, dismissed everybody, engaged new people for this vertical structure, and approve them as leaders. Taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to say that, in this respect, haste is absolutely out of place. We have replaced almost half—just imagine, half!—of all oblast, city, and rayon soviet chairmen. There is no such example in history. We have changed almost the entire government. Of course, this is also reflected in the life of people in some way. New people have come, who are just assuming the role of state officials, who have no experience in such a major undertaking. Naturally, we need to advance very carefully on this path. The state power is not a place where one needs to rush to do something. One has to advance carefully and calmly. At any rate, I keep to my election promise here. I have always declared that the current bodies of state power—that is, those [before reshuffling]—are comprised of 85 percent—I repeat, 85 percent—decent people. We have replaced half [of the government]. However, replacement for its own sake produces no results. One needs to be calm in this situation.

I have been told very often by those whom we intended to replace: Alyaksandr Ryhoravich, give us a chance to work, let us prove that we are competent. Good. The first reference point is set by the end of March, by the end of the first quarter. This is that first stage I was always talking about—eight months enabling us to look around and do something. I think that we will still discuss the results of those eight months, of what work has been done. However, the end of the first quarter is the deadline, after which people will be rigorously held accountable. On 22 March, we will hold a conference with leaders of industrial enterprises, where people will answer for what has been done, for how they executed the president's directive to put enterprises back into operation, give jobs to the people, and provide them with more or less tolerable wages. It is not the president who should answer for this, but appropriate people should be held accountable to the president, before he answers to the nation.

We have begun to stimulate growth among our young intelligentsia—it reacts very well to moves made by the executive branch. I have met with representatives of virtually the entire intelligentsia. I saw the whole depth of a breakdown and crisis existing today in science, culture, and art, where young people of your and my age are virtually barred from breaking free of that enclosure. They are just crushed and badgered. Regarding what is going on among entertainers and actors, this is utter horror! I, as president, cannot even speak about this from the screen to such a great audience. We have begun there [in the entertainment world] to turn things very strictly and put everything in its place, because in a quiet way it is really... [pauses] One outstanding sculptor recently told me at a party—I am citing his words here—Alyaksandr Ryhoravich, you cannot do without a dictatorship there. They, he says, have gone so far there that unless you take the situation in your hands and deal with it toughly, we will never have normal culture. Everybody is just crushed there. There is moral terror from the side of those people who during the last two years have come to power in certain circles, for example, in journalism, the theater, cinema, variety art, and opera. People were already telling me about this boldly and openly, even though there remains some fear.

Here you have the Constitution, here you have the anniversary of this Constitution. We should have lived in a law-governed state, a morally pure one! But in actual fact, different processes are taking place. Well, I have no possibility to expand on this within the framework of our airtime today. This is a topic for our upcoming news conference. I will have to speak forthrightly that trends in our society has gone so far and deep that it will not be

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so easy to get out of this quagmire and, even more so, to keep within the framework of constitutional norms, within the framework of civilized development of the state. Therefore, the problems are many, even though there have been very essential advancements.

In my opinion, those advancements include our foreign policy. It is balanced as never before. At the beginning, I was criticized for the Eastern orientation. It is true—China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and the East did prevail. This does not, however, mean that the Eastern orientation is the only one. Simply, we had already been prepared and, of course, the CIS is closer to me than the West. While we were implementing this Eastern policy, which is extremely advantageous for our producers, we were preparing the Western vector so that it would be balanced with the Eastern one. The last visits and trips of our delegations headed by the president to Brussels and Copenhagen have balanced our policy. We have opened up Europe for ourselves.

I want to stress one thing. In this foreign policy, I put importance not on its tourist aspect, as the people may imagine. I have to secure to my producers of commodities what I have to secure as president, that is, to open a legal corridor in our mutual relations with states and to open a path that should be followed today by industrialists. Everywhere I go, I try to pave the way, doing what a president has to do. Afterward, I will begin to make demands. Yes, a mess has been made in West Europe—somewhere prices in the chemical industry, for potassium, were introduced too hastily, and the door to West Europe was closed to us. This did colossal damage to the economy. Incidentally, this is a subject for journalists to examine. There was no such damage to our economy over the last two years. The president has settled this question in West Europe, too. We have expanded the quota for textiles, we have negotiated a lifting of tough measures adopted against us in the trade of potassium and fertilizers.

We have opened up China. In May—which is a surprise to many—Chinese Premier Li Peng is visiting us. Incidentally, the Chinese do not travel much around the world. But they do visit Belarus. Today, many delegations of the Chinese state are already working here. In other ways, the path is open. You can produce your goods and sell them! What more do our industrialists need from the president and the government? It would seem they need nothing more. We are resolving our problems. Therefore, the first quarter is the stage, at which tough demands will be made.

This spring's sowing campaign is a test for agricultural workers. Taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to announce once again: One should not weep because there are insufficient funds for the sowing campaign. You can sell meat and milk—today the purchase prices are decent, being at the world level. Sell and sow, as you please! Do you want me to switch on the money printing press? Or do you want me to take budget money from pensioners, students, schoolchildren, and you, personally, to finance the sowing campaign? I cannot do this. For the first time in history we now have parity between agricultural output and industrial output utilized in agriculture. Please, do your business!

It is for the first time in this past period that the ruble exchange rate has actually been stable for nearly three months. This is also a great achievement of our leaders on the macroeconomic level, and this was very difficult to do. This is also a broad topic, and I will tell you at the upcoming news conference how the stabilization of the ruble was executed. This is quite different from those reports publicized by certain political leaders from the [television] screen during the election campaign, who give themselves credit for accomplishing this. Here lies a record by a commission studying the problems of the Belarusian ruble exchange rate. The exchange rate began to stabilize only following the creation of this commission by the president. We have adopted no administrative moves to stabilize the exchange rate, none of them! The exchange rate has stabilized by itself, because the commercial banks headed by the National Bank have ceased to scheme. If the facts (?revealed by the commission) are corroborated, then some people have to be dispatched to some nearby places [stol nedalekiye mesta]. I am even afraid of saying that these facts will be corroborated.

However, a greater task lies ahead of us. The main thing is that we have lived through this most difficult period. Somehow I am confident that there will not be harder times. It is not that harder times are impossible. I would just like all journalists to fly to our neighbors and see what is going on. Well, some of you have been to Brussels. They are able to say in what type of society we live and where the economic situation is more difficult today. Is life better in that flourishing West Europe, or in Belarus, where shops are full, but you, unfortunately, are not always able to buy a piece of sausage, because it costs dear, very dear. Nothing in life is free. While in Denmark, I paid an unscheduled visit to a farmer. I saw how people work there. This... [pauses] Therefore, we will hope for the better in connection with the fact that we already have our Constitution.

[Correspondent] You have said that the Supreme Soviet violated the Constitution, having scheduled the elections not for March, but for May. Can you confirm the report that the president is going to dissolve parliament in March?

[Lukashenka] The dissolution of parliament by the president due to this reason alone would hardly be a correct and right step. I am surprised by these questions. I intend to propose that the Supreme Soviet resolve this problem on its own. But, frankly speaking, have you recently seen a quorum there? To whom may one make proposals there? There are between 100 and 120 deputies attending Supreme Soviet sessions. A honest deputy has learned long ago that time is up and that one needs to return to

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one's previous job. He does not come to the Supreme Soviet any more, he does not want to engage in those political intrigues characteristic of the current Supreme Soviet. It is good that you, by a resolution of your Collegium [of the Belarusian Television and Radio Company Board], have resolved to put an end to live relays of the Supreme Soviet sessions. You did the right thing, you have my complete support, because certain forces are today trying to use this rostrum for their personal election purposes. [passage omitted]

Just look. All those people who have been in the Supreme Soviet for the last five years have rushed into the current election campaign. It was incredibly difficult to work during those five years, but they are again seeking election. Speaking frankly—please forgive me for being immodest, this is also a subject for some future discussion—I would not like to see the Supreme Soviet—this is more a wish of Lukashenka the citizen, not Lukashenka the president—composed of the same deputies who have been working there for the last five years. It is not the president who ruined the state. The president must today disentangle that mess created by this Supreme Soviet. The Supreme Soviet should be filled by new people. As to those determining today who should be in power—my electorate, my people—I would like to address them with one request: Do not reproach the president or new deputies. They are the ones who will elect them, it is they who will go to the polling stations. They should vote for those whom they know. You remember that in the past, five years ago, we criticized Communist Party bureaucrats. What was their style? They left Minsk and went to provincial constituencies to be nominated as candidates. And what do we have today? What is going on today? Just look: All the bureaucrats of Minsk—the Belarusian Popular Front, the Communists, the Party of People's or some other's Accord—have rushed to provincial constituencies to be nominated as candidates. Seek nominations in your own constituencies, where you are known by the people! Put forward your candidacies and seek election! No, we'd better go to the countryside. We will make a lot of promises to the people there; people are trustful there, at the bottom. A good chance to be elected! In connection with this, I want to forewarn the people who will soon go to polling stations: Just think about who will be writing laws tomorrow. As to those seeking election to the Supreme Soviet, they should clearly realize that they are not going to be commanders there. Today, the commanders have already been chosen. There is the executive branch that will tackle economic issues, will manage, will command. Their task is to sit and write laws to be followed by our society, including the executive branch, the laws ruling our society. Therefore, while addressing the Supreme Soviet at the moment of adopting the law on elections, I insisted on a majority-type system to make people nominate and elect on their own. Therefore, I appeal once again: Elect those whom you have already known, who have already been tested by life along with you. I have not intended to dissolve the parliament, even though the president, as the guarantor of the Constitution, should secure the observance of this Constitution. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Your opponents in the Supreme Soviet often blame you for violating the Constitution. What can you say about this?

[Lukashenka] I am being blamed not only for violating the Constitution; I am being blamed for all conceivable sins, those inherent in me and those discovered by me only after I had been charged with them. However, nobody has yet told me which article and which section of the Constitution was violated by the president. It would be quite another matter if this were told. [passage omitted]

So here you have the Supreme Soviet's law on the president, which curbs his rights, and the law on the Supreme Soviet. Here you have an indicator of the Supreme Soviet's work. I will address the deputies on this. I am declaring to you, namely you, on our holiday—the Constitution Day—that these laws will not be enacted on the territory of the Republic of Belarus. The executive branch will not be executing these laws, because they contradict the Constitution. Today we have a holiday, Constitution Day, and we should hold this Constitution sacred. Neither the president, nor the Supreme Soviet chairman, nor the deputies have the right to violate this Constitution. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You propose to hold a referendum on the issues of a union with Russia, the official language, and state symbols. What is your comment on the assumption that such a step by the president may provoke a split within society?

[Lukashenka] First, are you sure that these are the questions I wanted to propose for a referendum? Second, are you sure that this will provoke a split within society?

[Correspondent] Myself, I am not sure. However, I wanted to hear the president's opinion?

[Lukashenka] [laughs] This is a pretty far-fetched [?premise] by journalists—the president will cause a split within society. This is being voiced by a small group of rightist nationalists, who present this opinion as an opinion of all the people. How's that? On the contrary, I want those symbols that will be approved by the people. If they approve the white-red-white flag, then there will be a white-red-white flag. If they approve a certain coat of arms, that knight with a saber on horseback, then so be it. However, if they back some other coat of arms, rye ears or some other more peaceful things, then let that be so. However, it will be the people who will express their will, is that clear? Whether there will be a split or no split, it will be the people who will express their will. Why was there no split when we in the Supreme Soviet adopted these symbols so quickly? I saw this, I was at the Supreme Soviet and saw how all this was adopted. This caused no split. Therefore, you should not alarm the

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people and the president by claiming that that this would lead to a split. You criticize me very often—and rightfully—for keeping to my election promises. [sentence as heard] Why do you not criticize me for fulfilling my election promise on language, which was voiced by me at every meeting with the electorate? Incidentally, I have not said that the Russian language should be official. I stated that Belarusian should be the official language, based on the first part [of Article 17] of our Constitution, while Russian should have a status equal to that of Belarusian. Do you understand? Yes, this way we indeed raise the Russian language to the level of the Belarusian language, but what is wrong with that? When [Foreign Minister] Uladzimir Syanko and I attended the recent summit [on social development in Copenhagen], represented by 118 states, the leader of the Italian delegation and the Italian state addressed the forum in—guess, what language?—English! He does not think it is a betrayal of his state [preceding four words in Belarusian]. He delivered his speech not in Italian, although there was a simultaneous translation into Italian. He spoke English. Many states have several official languages. So what? Has the state disintegrated because of this? As to us, we begin to cut to the quick in this transitional period. However, this is not the point. I again tend to expand on this issue. I should tell you: I have promised the people this referendum, and I will hold it. I will hold this referendum. I have the constitutional right. This is clearly written in the Constitution. I do not violate the Constitution. I am assured that we will not divide society; we will consolidate society by this. If we consider ourselves as democrats, so let us give, at least once, the people the right to determine their most fundamental and most vital issues. For the men, as you see, the symbols, the language, the issues of Russia or, as you say, a union with Russia... [pauses] I have never put this question that way. I am ready to do my business, and if this will activate a union with Russia, in this case, an economic one, then, thanks be to God, I will only be glad, because I have promised this to people in my election campaign, too. And I do this. However, since I was criticized for this, I have resolved to introduce a referendum on the issue of integration of our economies and an economic union with Russia. This is what I must stress. This has nothing to do with the sovereignty and independence of our state. We have a state and all its attributes, with the president being one of them. [passage omitted]

You must realize one thing. As I have already said, I am blamed today for the sins that I have not committed. This is a dirty business, a political struggle. There is the usual political struggle going on, which is brewed in the dirt. The limits of the permissible are being transgressed, overstepped. This should not happen in a civilized state.

Tell me, which state would permit its opposition leader, for example, Paznyak or Shushkevich, to travel, for example, to Great Britain—our embassy has recently sent me all their speeches—to fling dirt at this young state and its government? [passage omitted] This bewilders the West. I was told about this when I was in Brussels. I said: Well, let us look at these events as civilized people. They had a laugh. We are being laughed at. The opposition goes on a trip and states: Do not give them IMF credits, because they are not those people in power who should be granted credits. So, the question arises: Against whom and with whom are you? I will sign today a decree on equal chances for candidates in the elections. The essence of this decree will be as follows: The National Bank chairman, the KGB chairman, a deputy prime minister and anybody you like—please, run for election; the manager of an enterprise, the director of a kolkhoz or sovkhoz—please, run for election. However, if the use of official cars or other resources, like financing by state-owned enterprises,for election purposes are noted, this will immediately be halted, the public official will be dismissed from his post, and his candidacy will immediately be canceled. These measures will be adopted by the president. I am obliged to secure equal opportunities for competing to the common man, as well as a manager or a prime minister. [passage omitted]

Hryb Criticizes Call for Parliament Dissolution

LD1703174895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 17 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Parliament Speaker Mechyslaw Hryb has said that it is up to the legislature to decide whether or not to dissolve itself. His statement follows President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's televised speech on Wednesday [15 March] in which he spoke of wanting to offer the parliament later this month to dissolve itself ahead of a new general election.

On the president's intention not to endorse the new laws on the country's head of state and parliament, the speaker said Lukashenka vowed to abide by laws no matter whether or not he liked. If not, the president may face impeachment, Hryb said.

At a news conference on Friday [17 March], the speaker was sceptical about the prospects of the president-planned referendum on equal status to Russian and Belarusian and the country's new emblems. IF Note: Lukashenka has repeatedly called for Russian, now used to communicate between different ethnic groups, to be granted the status of a second official language.

He also wants to ask the people to choose between the present white-red-white flag complete with a horserider with a sword and the Soviet flag and coat of arms the republic had when the Soviet Union was still alive.

Hryb says it is up to the new parliament to call a referendum on the country's emblem because the incumbent one has no right to amend the constitution six months before its term of office expires. The new election is due on May 14.

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He said even if Lukashenka uses his right to legal initiative and offers a referendum, the parliament's verdict will largely depend on the wording of referendum questions.

For his part, Head of the Central Election Commission Alyaksandr Abramovich also involved in the conference said that although the president might be right in wanting to call a referendum, it must not be held together with general elections to divert voters' attention to more politicized issues.

He put the cost of new elections at 68 billion Belarusian rubles saying not a single penny has yet been available though the election campaign started on March 5. It will cost Rbl 9 billion to print the bulletins, Abramovich said. In his words, the central election commission has been using the Rbl 4 billion saved from last year's presidential poll.

More on Hryb News Conference

WS2003103395 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1200 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On 17 March, Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb and Alyaksandr Abramovich, chairman of the Central Commission for Elections and National Referendums, held a news conference on the course of the Supreme Soviet's subsequent work and the preparation for the forthcoming parliamentary elections, since, in the Supreme Soviet chairman's opinion, these matters are mutually related. Commenting on the recent statements of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka to the effect that at the end of March he intends to propose self-dissolution to the parliament. Not waiting for the results of the parliamentary elections, Mr. Hryb said that at the sitting of the Supreme Soviet Presidium on 14 March and 16 March, they decided to submit over 20 questions for consideration at the plenary parliamentary sittings, including the issue of ratification of the latest Belarusian-Russian agreements. At the same time, the presidium will put forward a proposal that the parliament should go into recess from 14 April (when, in the speaker's opinion, the real election campaign starts), until the elections are over, in order that all nominees for elections would have equal chances and the present MPs running for elections may work with the electorate. But, if necessary, the parliament may be called to short-term sittings to solve urgent problems. In reply to the voiced apprehension that at the next plenary sitting there may be no quorum because of the election campaign and the president may make use of this to dissolve the parliament Mr. Hryb assured that "if nobody prevents the MPs from appearing in parliament, there will be a quorum." Alyaksandr Abramovich reported that in general before the present time the election campaign had been running normally. As he said, the main responsibility for arranging the elections lays with the local authorities. "We orientate them to a strict observance of the law, regardless of what anybody is saying," Mr. Abramovich said. True, his own assertion about a normal course of the election campaign was not in line with his report that until that time the government had not transferred resources for financing the elections. According to the Supreme Soviet's decision, 68 billion rubles [R] were allocated for this purpose. But taking into account indexation in view of inflation for January and February alone, another R50 billion should be added. Resources for the arrangement of elections to local soviets have not been allocated or even specified in the budget. As the chairman of the Central Commission for Elections reported, only due to the R4 billion that were left from the presidential elections they were able to provide district election commissions with the necessary documents. Alyaksandr Abramovich cited the following figure: The printing of ballot-papers and invitation cards for elections to local soviets alone will cost R9 billion, for elections to the Supreme Soviet—another R4 billion.

Editor of NARODNAYA GAZETA Dismissed

LD1703203295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1912 GMT 17 Mar 95

[By BELINFORM-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk March 17 TASS—Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed a decree on Friday [17 March] dismissing Iosif Seredich, MP, form his post of the editor of the parliament's daily "NARODNAYA GAZETA."

The daily is one of the most popular in the republic and has a circulation of 1,000,000.

Seredich was sacked for publishing a reader's "letter to the president" which "called for violence and social conflicts" the decree said.

The reader's letter published on March 10, expressed nationalist views and accused the president of looking for closer ties with Russia.

'Unlawful Actions' Against Press

WS2003102695 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1800 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As was already reported, on 17 March, in accordance with presidential decree No. 113, Iosif Syaredzich, editor-in-chief of the NARODNAYA GAZETA, was relieved from his post. The decree reads that this was done for the newspaper's publication of material by an anonymous author under the heading "Letter to the President," which incited the public to violence and public confrontation. At the same time, the President's Administration was charged to form an Observation Council, subordinated to the president, with the participation of representatives of society "with a view to observe the legislation concerning the activity of the mass media." Leanid Yekel, chairman of the Union of Journalists of Belarus, defined the decree as one more attack on the freedom of speech. "After the wave of unlawful actions against the press that took place

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this year I am not surprised at this move of the president. Everything indicates that the president is trying to place the mass media under the full control of the state," he said. Answering a BELAPAN correspondent's questions whether the Union of Journalists intends to express its attitude towards what is going on Mr. Yekel said: "It is senseless to make appeals to the president. All words are for nothing. But we will not stand aloof, of course." Mr. Yekel said that on 21 March a national seminar would take place with the participation of heads of central and local periodicals and heads of the regional organizations of the Union of Journalists. They will consider the new law on mass media, the situation with libel actions against journalists and periodicals, and, certainly, the last steps of the president, directed at the infringement of freedom of expression. Mr. Yekel defined the decision to establish an Observation Council "with a view to observe the legislation in the activity of the mass media" as fiction. "Someone wants to stop up the press' mouth with the hands of someone else. I am sure that authoritative and honest representatives of the public will refuse to be members of this council," Mr. Yekel said.

Moldova

Bergman Repeats Warning of Moscow Incidents

MM1703123295 Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Mar 95 p 2

[Interview with Tiraspol City Military Commandant Mikhail Bergman by Aleksandr Danilkin; date and place not given: "Gunmen or Delegates? Tiraspol's Commandant Confirms That Armed Persons Are Setting Out for Moscow From the Dniester Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Information from Tiraspol Military Commandant Mikhail Bergman originally had the impact of a bomshell: "Groups of armed gunmen are headed for Moscow!" A day later, FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service] staffers refuted this information: There is no expectation of any extraordinary events in Moscow from 18 through 20 March. In a bid to clarify the situation, we contacted the Tiraspol commandant.

[Danilkin] Mikhail Mikhaylovich, is your statement about Dniester Region gunmen heading for the capital still valid?

[Bergman] Yes, it is. Only it was not a statement but a warning to Muscovites. There is a tremendous commotion here in our region on this score. Events developed as follows. On 7 March I explained the situation to Colonel Nikitin, chief of counterintelligence of the 14th Army, who then sent a telegram to the FCS with the warning—and it was marked "top secret." That same evening Dniester Region Republic Security Minister Shevtsov was in the picture! Just how the Dniester Region side found out about a top secret telegram is a major question.

I will recall a similar situation: 1993, the month of October. Lieutenant General Lebed issues a statement that gunmen have left for Moscow. Then, too, no reciprocal response, either in Moscow or here, followed. Our local guys cried out with one voice: No, we have not sent anybody anywhere! Then they brought in some video footage from Ostankino, where everybody recognized among the gunmen Major Kudryavoy, real name Lysenko; Lieutenant Nikitenko, real name Kovalev; Senior Lieutenant Bubnov, real name Malyshev; and many others. Subsequently we too showed this film on television—it prompted no emotions in anybody.

Now, suddenly, gunmen are driving off in vehicles from the Security Ministry and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Dniester Region Republic—they are equipped with special satellite communications—and once again there is a veil of silence. Once again the reaction of the local authorities is this: We do not know what kind of people they are—what, or, indeed, who they are.

[Danilkin] Are there any other aspects?

[Bergman] The wife of Major (Security) Filatov comes running to us 7 March: "My husband has been arrested for refusing to send weapons to Moscow." No reaction from the authorities. I will remind you: Only recently, we warned Muscovites that batches of explosives in cans marked as carrying beer are heading their way. Since there were no explosions reverberating through Moscow, there was no response. Incidentally, the "cans" were seized, but the investigation has failed to get moving to this day. One more detail. Tiraspol is not a very big city, everybody knows everybody else, and the wives gossip: "My husband is over there somewhere right now, and my son is there too." Do you really think you can conceal this?

[Danilkin] Are you trying to say that even now gunmen are setting out for Moscow?

[Bergman] Yes! People are going there! They are taking the old route, like in October 1993, through the city of Kozelsk. Now the Dniester Region security minister has become very shy of publicity. Republic Prosecutor Boris Luchik has just telephoned me and said that Supreme Council Chairman Grigoriy Marakuts wanted to look into all these matters.

[Danilkin] According to your data, how many gunmen have set out for Moscow from the Dniester Region?

[Bergman] I cannot say exactly. I know for sure that two vehicles have gone. Incidentally, according to data at my disposal, approximately 40 of Barshakov's supporters have come here to us.

[Danilkin] Did they arrive long ago? And why?

[Bergman] They are also training people for dispatch. They brought with them a lot of their newspapers—

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RUSSKIY PORYADOK [Russian Order], they are distributing them around enterprises and educational institutes. We have a subsidiary branch of Barshakov supporters here—in our region, the organization is called "Russkaya Pesnya" [Russian Song]—they, incidentally, were visited by the not unknown Vedenkin and Barkashov himself on several occasions. Nowadays, the Dniester Region is a staging post and a place for training gunmen brought here by Security Minister Shevtsov—real name Antyufeyev. In our region, many people are afraid.

[Danilkin] What kind of threat does this pose to Russia?

[Bergman] Weapons have continued to make their way to Moscow Since 1992. We send telegrams to all the authorities—each time, without reply.

[Danilkin] But what is the purpose of their sending weapons to Moscow now?

[Bergman] Everybody is saying that something is bound to happen in Moscow 18 through 20 March.

[Danilkin] So why is it in your view that Russian counterintelligence is reacting to the situation so calmly?

[Bergman] That, I don't know. I know one thing: The failure to take measures in Moscow points to something there being not quite right.

[Danilkin] Is General Lebed aware that unpleasant events may be about to develop in Moscow?

[Bergman] Yes, he is aware of this. He has reported back about this on several occasions to his leadership.

[Danilkin] Has General Lebed himself tried to adopt any kind of measures?

[Bergman] It usually happens like this: Every move he makes immediately prompts appeals to the Duma or to the FCS—as a rule, it is our local leaders who are complaining. Apparently, we are all poking our noses into other people's affairs....

[Danilkin] Despite the fact that, officially, Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs has reacted fairly cautiously to the information from Tiraspol Military Commandant Mikhail Bergman, preventive measures have nevertheless been taken. As reported by Colonel General Aleksandr Kulikov, deputy minister of internal affairs of the Russian Federation, the necessary instructions were given to the capital's transport police. Special barriers have been set up on the approaches to Moscow. The aim of all these undertakings is to filter out possible groups of gunmen.

Parliament Approves Military Doctrine

LD1703192995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 17 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Moldovan parliament approved Friday [17 March] in the first reading the military doctrine of the republic. According to the doctrine, Moldova, as a neutral state, must "consider the potential military danger from the outside". The republic intends to guarantee its security, first of all, through participating in the activities of the world community aimed at preventing wars. At the regional level, Moldova will seek neighborly relations, for example, with the defense departments of the countries of the region.

In line with the document, the republic will seek to create a military force which will be adequate for the protection of its territory and citizens. The national army, which in future will be formed on the basis of professional troops, is the basis of the Moldovan military.

Defense is proclaimed the main element of the army's military activities. According to the blueprint, which will be considered in the second reading in a month, the national army is to be a state structure outside politics, which will be under the control of the supreme legislative and executive bodies of power.

Smirnov Blames Chisinau for Failure To Hold Summit

AU1803213395 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1920 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, INFOTAG, 17/3/1995—Problems of the Dniester dispute settlement were discussed in Tiraspol today behind closed doors by Dniester President Igor Smirnov and Russian President's Special Envoy Vladlen Vassev [name as received].

Vassev expressed regret that the Chisinau/Tiraspol summit scheduled for March 15 failed to be held. He spoke for activation of the negotiation process, which has been showing too little progress recently, in his opinion.

Igor Smirnov stressed that Tiraspol spokesmen were ready to meet on March 15, and the failure was Chisinau's fault. He confirmed once again that Tiraspol insists on granting a state legal status to Dniester, and cannot agree with solving the problem in the framework of local self-government, as suggested by Chisinau.

Lucinschi, Gagauz President Hold Election Talks

AU1703130995 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2057 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/3/1995—Petru Lucinschi, Moldovan Parliament speaker, met with Stepan Topal, Gagauz president, in Chisinau yesterday. The meeting was held at the request of the Gagauz side. They discussed the results of the 5 March referendum in the village of Svetliy, Taraclia district, and the Gagauz Yeri localities' participation in the 16 April local elections. Andrei Ibrishim, Gagauz

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presidential spokesman, told BASA. The Comrat Parliament will decide today whether the Gagauzians will participate in the 16 April elections. Ion Ungureanu, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for State Security, who attended yesterday's meeting, told BASA that the results of the referendum in Svetliy were declared void because of several violations there. He also added that "although the Gagauzians think that the Local Elections Law contradicts the 'Gagauz-Yeri-Gagauzia' stipulations, the 16 April 16 elections must be held throughout Moldova."

Gagauz Parliament Requests Postponing Apr Ballot

AU1703131795 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2057 GMT 14 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Comrat BASAPRESS, 14/3/1995—The parliament of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic adopted today an appeal to the Moldovan Parliament requesting to hold the local elections [scheduled for 16 April] in Gagauz-Yeri at some other date, Andrei Ibrishim, Gagauz leader Stepan Topal's spokesman, told BASA. According to Ibrishim, a suitable date for holding the local elections will be the one set by the Gagauz Yeri People's Assembly, which, according to the legislation, will be established by the Bashkan of the Gagauz Yeri. Asked whether the date of the Gagauz Yeri local elections will be set in consultation with the Moldovan Parliament, Ibrishim alluded that "this is up to the Chisinau Parliament." The appeal to the Moldovan Parliament also contains the request to extend the mandate of the local governments until the new elections. "In Gagauz Yeri the elections to the Moldovan local governments will not take place on April 16," Vasiliy Neykovchin, press secretary of the Gagauz Parliament, told BASA. "Today the Comrat parliament asked the Chisinau Parliament to amend the Local Elections Law in accordance with the Gagauz Yeri Juridical Status Law," said Neykovchin.

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Kazakhstan

Prime Minister Leaves for U.S., Canada

LD2003100195 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1520 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazakhstani Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin flew to the United States and Canada today [19 March]. Characterizing his trip as a necessary and important one, the prime minister said that the republic needs funds, and that as prime minister he should obtain them in order to help the president extract the republic from crisis.

President Decrees New Cabinet

LD1703192495 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In implementation of the instructions of President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin has practically finished the formation of the new Cabinet of Ministers. At his proposal, by decree of the head of state, the following people were confirmed as members of the government in the corresponding positions:
Nigmatzhan Kabatayevich Isingarin - first deputy prime minister;
Vitaliy Leonidovich Mette - first deputy prime minister [as heard];
Akhmetzhan Smagulovich Yesimov - deputy prime minister;
Viktor Vasilyevich Sobolev - deputy prime minister;
Imangali Nurgaliyevich Tasmagambetov - deputy prime minister;
Berdybek Marbekovich Saparbayev - head of the apparatus of the Cabinet of Ministers;
Kasymzhomart Kemelevich Tokayev - minister of foreign affairs;
Sagadat Kozhakhmetovich Nurmagambetov - defense minister;
Aleksandr Sergeyevich Pavlov - finance minister;
Bulat Abdrakhmanovich Bayekenov - minister of internal affairs;
Serikbek Zhusupbekovich Daukeyev - minister of geology and protection of undeground resources;
Vasiliy Nikolayevich Devyatko - minister of health;
Talgat Asylovich Mamashev - minister of culture;
Vladimir Sergeyevich Shkolnik - minister of science and new technologies;
Nurlan Utebovich Balgimbayev - minister of the oil and gas industry;
Altynbek Sarsenbayevich Sarsenbayev - minister of the press and mass information;
Garri Gvidovich Shtoyik - minister of trade and industry;
Zhanybek Salimovich Karibzhanov - minister of agriculture;
Baykarim Vilyamovich Tutenov - minister of social security;
Petr Ivanovich Krepak - minister of labor;
Byrganym Sariyevna Aytimova - minister for youth, tourism and sports;
Svyatoslav Aleksandrovich Medvedev - minister of ecology and biological resources;
Altay Ablayevich Tleuberdin - minister of economy;
Viktor Vyacheslavovich Khrapunov [phonetic] - minister of power and coal;
Nagashbay Amangaleyevich Shaykenov - minister of justice;
Bakyt Sagyndykovich Ospanov - chairman of the state committee for land-tenure regulations;
Vladimir Ivanovich Goryachkovskiy - chairman of the state committee for statistics and analysis;
Seytsultan Suleymenovich Aimbetov - chairman of the state committee for financial supervision;
Nikolay Mikhaylovich Makiyevskiy - chairman of the state committee for states of emergency.

Prime Minister Holds News Conference

LD2003122895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian at 1420 GMT on 19 March carries an 18-minute recorded report on a news conference by Kazakh Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin in Almaty on 18 March.

A correspondent begins by describing the news conference, and a video segment is shown.

Qazhygeldin says that today is 18 March—the seventh day of the next 100 days of the Cabinet of Ministers. He asks the correspondents to congratulate him for this and invites them to ask questions.

He says: "In principle, as prime minister I was absolutely unready to form a new Cabinet of Ministers. You should understand this. That is the first thing. Second, we want to let the people get on with their work. Things will not get any better by playing leapfrog with personnel. There cannot be talk about a change of team for the time being. Nobody is ready for this yet—neither society nor the Cabinet of Ministers. Moreover, I am quite satisfied with those with whom I am working, with what we are going to do in the future, and with what we have already done.

"I see that you have heightened the requirements of this Cabinet of Ministers and of me as prime minister in particular. You have reacted coolly to our every new successful step. That is as it should be. I share your approach. I would not want to make some special heroic deed of national importance out of every action of the Cabinet of Ministers.

"Please note, however, that you could not even dream a year ago about the removal of quotas and licences. Just a year ago, all sorts of regulatory and credit-distributing mechanisms were still functioning. None of that exists now; it is gone. I am sure—and we frequently talk about it among ourselves in the Cabinet of Ministers—that any system based on granting permission inevitably leads to abuses. We want our work to be more transparent, and

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we want to legalize all economic relations. Other spheres are out of our jurisdiction. In addition, I want to tell you that we will continue reforming enterprises and reviving the economy. All economically necessary legislative acts are ready. A part of them will come back from the office of the Supreme Council, and we intend to introduce them and give them the force of law by presidential edict, without changing the articles preliminarily discussed in the committees of the Supreme Council. Thus, the better part of the legislative acts will, let us say, obtain the legitimacy that they had already received.

"We intend to carry out this work, and we intend to accelerate the privatization process somewhat. I would like to stimulate interest in this because there is much talk about this subject. I would like to ask you not to take the Cabinet of Ministers' haste in completing the voucher privatization as a case of cutting down on this program. These are absolutely different matters and different categories of ideas. We cannot stretch out the pleasure of exchanging citizens' vouchers for enterprises' shares for two years. Because citizens do not understand what this formal procedure is, all citizens are interested in the dividends that they were promised at the start of the privatization process. We did explain to our citizens why privatization is necessary—first and foremost, in order to let enterprises work more dynamically and to let owners appear."

Following further commentary by the correspondent, another video segment of the news conference is shown.

Qazhygeldin says: "If we were talking about democracy, if we were talking about the primacy of the law, why did that which happened hurt us so badly? Why is it that everyone reacts so calmly when a government resigns and the fate of those who worked in the government is left undecided? If the Constitutional Court—the highest arbiter of law—suddenly states that the parliament we had can no longer continue its legislative activity, why should we take it as such a tragedy? We did not want it to come to this. It works like this: I am all for the law, but let anything bad or inconvenient happen to someone else, not to me.

"Do you think we resigned with great pleasure on 11 March without having completed our work? Some of us have already been left behind. As prime minister, I could also have stayed on the platform and not gotten into the carriage. Who brought about this inconvenience? Life. Who provoked this? The deputies.

"My attitude to this is very calm; 136 deputies, former deputies of the last convocation, have taken away their workbooks and found jobs for themselves. Some went home, some will work in the executive bodies. Quite a few—over 20—will work with us. These are highly intelligent people, whom I invited personally.

"The conversation with each of them began in the following way: If you remember, I did not ask you during this entire period to vote for our draft laws. If you remember, you did not come up to me with personal self-seeking questions. Therefore, sitting in the hall, I sometimes attended the sessions more than some of those deputies, although I was not paid for this. I listened to the people. We invited those who were the smartest, in my opinion, to work with us. Many of them, I am pleased to say, accepted the offer to work with us. I am very grateful for this. We should take all of this calmly; a normal process is under way.

"The only inconvenient aspect of this is the need to spend money on new elections. Many people are asking whether this is worth doing. It is. Society cannot live without parliament. We certainly have to elect a parliament. I think, however, that we have to reform the Constitution a little. I do not like our Constitution at all. This is my private statement, not that of the prime minister.

"The electoral law should be reformed as well. The reason for what happened is concealed in the legal condition of society. After all, no reforms have been implemented for three years, especially in a period of transition from one formation to another.

"I think that the media will occupy the parliament's place in this period. Everyone should appeal to you. Let us appeal to you, as well as to the people. As has already been suggested, by the way, I think there are plenty of you in this hall. If we gathered all the media together, there would definitely be no less than 177 people. The only problem is that 350,000 or 400,000 voters did not vote for you.

"Naturally, however, there should not be legal vacuum. A parliament should certainly appear. I am sure it will. I know that you have not been engaged by us, and you have caused us more inconvenience, to be honest, than the corps of deputies ever did. Therefore, there is no real danger. The government is being observed by a very wise fool—you.

"I can say one obvious thing, that changes to the Constitution absolutely cannot be made without a referendum. Given this, there is the possibility of holding a referendum. It is not up to me to say when, how, and what the questions will be."

Prime Minister on Formation of Government

LD1803191995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1658 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Almaty, Mar 18 (Interfax)—The government of Kazakhstan has been mostly formed, Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin told a news conference in the capital Almaty on March 18.

He said the government underwent insignificant changes. There will be two first vice-premiers. One of them, Vitaliy Mette will be responsible for the Cabinet's general performance and will substitute for Qazhygeldin in his absence (earlier Mette was an ordinary vice-premier).

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Nyghmetzhan Yesengharin has remained first vice-premier. He is in charge of the day-to-day management of the economy.

There is a new office of vice-premier for ideology. He is Imangali Tasmagambetov (former presidential aide).

"I am quite satisfied with those I work with and with what we are going to do", Qazhygeldin said. He said the government would continue to reform enterprises, invigorate the economy, speed up privatization, improve the financial sector. The government's chief aim will be to curb inflation and at the same time increase people's incomes. "Our reforms are irreversible. We shall continue consistent reforms of the economy", Qazhygeldin said.

He said that 136 members of parliament dismissed by President Nazarbayev, had laid down their powers and found new jobs. The Kazakh parliament consisted of 177 deputies. More then two dozen former members of parliament took jobs at the Cabinet of Ministers' staff.

Qazhygeldin believes that society cannot exist without a parliament. However, the Supreme Soviet must be reformed.

It must be a legislative assembly, Prime Minister Qazhygeldin said. He believes that parliament members must have no immunity against indictment on criminal charges.

Qazhygeldin believes that Kazakhstan's constitution must be reformed through a referendum.

He said that his first official visit to the United States would take place on March 19-27 and to Canada on March 27-31. He was invited by the U.S. President and Canadian Prime Minister.

Hunger-Strike Deputy Does Not Remember 'Incident'

LD1903094995 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russia 1500 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today [K.B. Uskenbayev], the deputy head of Almaty's chief internal affairs department suggested, through his department's press service, that we interview Vladimir Chernyshev, a former Supreme Council deputy, about an incident which happened today.

[Begin Uskenbayev recording] Sometime between 0940 and 1000 we received a phone call from the House of Democracy saying that Chernyshev had been beaten up at his home. At once we formed an operational investigation group. When they arrived there, they talked to Chernyshev. During the conversation Chernyshev explained that at 0845 he left his home to go shopping in the market. As he was coming down to the ground floor, he lost consciousness at a landing. He does not remember what happened next. After some time he came to, looked around, and saw that he was lying on the staircase of the entrance to his house, and went back up to his apartment at about 1015. The same account was given by Mariya Vladimirovna, his daughter. She explained that about 0845 her father went out shopping and after about 20-25 minutes came back with his nose bleeding.

During subsequent questioning, Vladimir Vasilyevich said he has been on hunger-strike for seven days—he is on a hunger-strike—that he has had two heart attacks, and that he suffers from heart disease. In the morning before going out, he drank some strong tea. Asked whether he felt anyone beating him or any blows, he said he did not feel any blows. There are no obvious enemies who would beat him up. Those are his words. [end recording]

[Correspondent] We visited Vladimir Chernyshev's home.

[Begin Chernyshev recording] I came to on the staircase. I remember passing out, but I do not remember anything else. When I came to, I did not understand where I was. Then I recognized the staircase, and although I forgot the number of my apartment I reached it. We sent for doctors. I have been medically examined. [end recording]

Nazarbayev Address on Law, Order

LD1903142895 Almaty Kazakhstan Television in Russian 1545 GMT 18 Mar 95

[Speech by President Nursultan Nazarbayev to heads of law enforcement bodies and representatives of local administrations and ministries; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The metastasis of parasitism and alcoholism are spreading out of control. The scale of drug addiction—and the drugs business that lives off it—have reached a socially dangerous level. There are over 20,000 registered drug addicts. And that is only the ones that have been discovered. The number of drugs-related crimes is growing rapidly. Over 8,000 such crimes were investigated last year. The rise was 25 percent.

Foreigners are becoming more and more involved in the drugs business. Foreign drug dealers are trying to use Kazakhstan, with its increasing contacts with the outside world, as a transit basis for drugs trafficking. Last year over 400 citizens of foreign states were detained for drugs-related crimes.

The intolerable crime situation that has arisen requires a complete toughening of the demands on law enforcement bodies who are always referring to the inadequacy of the laws. For example, they asked that criminal responsibility be introduced for false-enterprise and false-bankruptcy. We introduced it. And what has happened? Is it possible now to find even a single case on the basis of these articles of the criminal code? No.

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Cooperation between law enforcement structures has still not been established as required, as a result of which the interests of timely, qualified investigation of criminal cases, especially serious crimes, suffer. No matter how many times you speak on this topic, the level of responsibility and executive discipline of law enforcement bodies is still below any criticism. It is now commonplace for militiamen to commit crimes themselves. It is not by chance that last year over 500 extraordinary incidents and violations of legality were committed by the personnel of internal affairs bodies. As a result of such work, trust in the authorities and their authority is falling. And this shows that Minister Bulat Bayekenov [interior minister], and the whole leadership of the Interior Ministry are not working adequately to cope with the situation in the country, but ineffectively and sluggishly.

Finally, why should the Interior Ministry conduct operational preventive work only on instruction from the president? And it is all being conducted episodically, including now.

I must note that the activities of courts are far from perfect and deserve a critical review. I have already had to draw attention—and not so long ago as well—on the vice of our judicial punitive practice. Unfortunately, little has changed. Statistics show that last year over 1,000 sentences were overturned after protests from prosecutors because of the softness of punishments handed out.

Judges frequently abuse their procedural rights. For example, they were given the right to change preventive punishment at the stage of investigating a crime. And how is this right being used in practice? Persons accused of bribery, racketeering, illegal possession of fire arms, and habitual criminals are being discharged from custody. For example, the head of (Astanabank), a certain (Nasibullin), was arrested for bribery. But (Zimanov), the judge of the Almaty city court, made the decision to release him from custody. As a result the accused hid from investigation.

On the other hand, through the fault of judges over 2,000 people are being held on remand beyond legally permitted terms.

There are other, no less disgraceful cases. A Georgian citizen, who as it turned out had several convictions, had criminal proceedings instituted against him for possession of hard drugs. He was arrested and charged. But the Almaty city court, where the case was investigated, on the basis of a petition from a foreign embassy, in the person of Judge (Baksultanov), adopted a resolution releasing the recidivist. I ask you what connection foreign diplomats have to our internal affairs? And why is it necessary to react to this?

Although last year 77 judges had disciplinary proceedings instituted against them for various violations, not a single judge was sacked, although there were flagrant violations of legality.

Mr. (Malakhov), I do not know, or Mr. (Shaykenov), which of them—but are any of our judges beyond the law in prison? Were these and other disgraceful facts the subject of investigation of the qualification collegium of the Supreme Court? No, they were not.

We are not speaking about limiting the independency of judges, but first of all, about the personal responsibility of each specific judge who behaves impudently in relation to the law. Of course we do not need an accusatory deviation. We have already gone through this. But every crime committed should be justly punished by the court in accordance with the law.

Moreover, I have information that judges have begun to compete among themselves to see who can receive the biggest bribe. This is probably not by chance—so that probably they receive something from it. A competition is underway. Who is going to look into this?

Taking into account the crime situation, existing criminal legal procedure code articles, which allowed an appeal to court against detention as a preventive punishment have been removed. This step is temporary until a new code is adopted.

Although I am not a supporter of repressive measures, I would like to say that at present calls that are sometimes heard to abolish the death penalty are absolutely groundless, irrespective of whatever humanistic reasoning accompanies them. Possibly in future our society will reach the necessity of abolishing it and replacing it with life imprisonment as is accepted in states with a high level of a sense of justice, but so far it is too early to talk about it.

Look at the figures. Last year the courts considered appeals against 87 death sentences. In 61 cases the sentence was not changed. The presidential pardoning commission considered it possible to commute the death sentence to imprisonment in only one case from 40 appeals. For example, how could you pardon a certain Nikolayev, head of a band that included (Atamanchuk), (Manyyev), and (Syrba), who personally killed in one go three men from the (Akhmetov) family. So, there is no doubt that the decisions made are well-grounded. This again proves the necessity for a balanced approach here.

In addition to the pardoning commission, a special presidential department submits documents to me, I carefully read every word no matter the size of the document. I look for a way to save this man's life, because most frequently they are under 20. When you start reading your blood runs cold at what they do, how they mock and kill. They are not people.

Therefore, I demand a distinct and clear position from the heads of law enforcement and judicial bodies on these issues. You know you contradict yourselves by talking about the rise in serious crimes and simultaneously proposing narrowing the group of crimes for which capital punishment can be applied. To justify such

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approach they refer to democratic states. However, why be cunning? They do not talk much about abolishing the death sentence in countries where crime is growing. [passage omitted]

In the near future, probably this month, I will introduce a law on operational investigatory activity that was not considered for two years by the Supreme Council. The first step will be to put this activity, which is the most effective method in the crime-prevention campaign, on a legal basis. This will undoubtedly provide good support for the law-enforcement agencies.

Our legislative bodies did not have the time to deal with the draft amendments submitted to the Supreme Court on the liquidation of such an anachronism in the criminal code as the division of provisions on the criminal infringement of private and socialist property. We still have this, which is why attitudes are different, and why our entrepreneurs and our private businesses are only beginning their private business. We have announced constitutionally the equality of all forms of ownership, and have already moved away from barrack-room socialism. I will use the additional authorities that I am given, and will approve this legislative document very soon.

A number of edicts and resolutions by the republic's president aimed at consolidating the struggle against crime have been issued in the last three years. The program of the struggle against crime in 1993-1995, which is focused on developing law-enforcement laws and increasing the effectiveness of the law-enforcement agencies' activities, is being carried out. To implement the edict on the struggle against organized crime and corruption from 17 March 1992, law-enforcement agencies were set the task of beginning the struggle against extortion, which has developed on a huge scale, particularly in the capital. But according to the data that has been submitted to me, if 545 cases of extortion, or racketeering, were uncovered in the year when the edict was issued, then in 1993 there were 912, and last year more that 1,000 were uncovered. More than 4,000 racketeers have been recorded by the law-enforcement agencies. I do not think that these figures are very exact, and it is right to say that there are more than 1,000 acts of extortion committed every day.

Last year anti-extortion units uncovered more than 1,500 crimes, and dangerous racketeering groups were liquidated. More than 400 court cases have been conducted in connection with them in the republic. As a result, more than 500 people have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. However, despite the measures being taken, I do not want to say that they are not being implemented; all of you—Interior Ministry, courts, and the prosecutor's office—are undoubtedly working hard in this difficult time. All units from the lower ranks to staff officers are working, and this is clear. However, the situation is not improving. All of this must bring results and the people must see the results.

The turning point in the struggle against crime has not come yet. In the strategic context, this demands fundamental changes in the legislation. Draft criminal and criminal-procedural codes were developed and submitted for consideration by the Supreme Council, proposed by me according to my legislative initiatives, and they are focused on implementing the state legal reform program, stipulating the updating of the law in the sphere of the struggle against crime. But the decision of the Constitutional Court of 6 March has, as you all know, brought about the cessation of the Supreme Council's activities.

Moreover, the situation demands immediate legislative and organizational measures focused on intensifying the struggle against crime, which should have been approved yesterday. For this reason I have already signed an edict with the force of law, which introduces amendments and additions to the current criminal and criminal-procedural legislation, which was published in the press today, and that you have in your hands. This will help to restrain the unprecedented rise in criminal phenomena in the country. This step is another testimony to our resoluteness in conducting an uncompromising struggle against crime, and I am sure it will be supported by the people.

As for the organizational side of the matter, a series of measures to consolidate the responsibility of the law-enforcement bodies and to optimize their structures lie ahead. But the most urgent organizational measures have already been approved by my resolution. Twenty-four hour joint patrols by the militia and military detachments have been introduced around railway stations, airports, cultural sites, and places of entertainment. A special mobile snatch squad is being formed from the more highly-trained law-enforcement agencies' employees. The Supreme Court and lower courts have been recommended, strictly in accordance with legislation, to take measures to be cooperative regarding criminal cases so as to eliminate abuses connected with the unjustifiably long periods of detention citizens have been subjected to.

This work must not be turned into an ordinary campaign. It must become a systematic campaign by the law-enforcement agencies, and also by regional, town, and district administrations. I will demand weekly reports on the work accomplished from the heads of regional administrations, along with the law-enforcement bodies, naturally. In line with this, we will check the competence of the operative working methods of all crime-preventing bodies. Who costs what. Can he remain at his post in this complicated time?

Moreover, every citizen must have a sense of his responsibility to maintain the law, to render every assistance to the law-enforcement bodies. The mass media must keep its finger on the pulse of this campaign and illuminate its pace of work. [passage omitted]

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But not only the militiaman must have the unimpeded right to use firearms when necessary. Criminal responsibility for causing physical injury of medium severity in increasing necessary levels of defense is abolished by edict. This step is dictated by the desire really to secure the right of not only law-enforcement bodies, but also of citizens to assist in taking active countermeasures against criminals. In defending his own house, family, and property from criminal infringement, each person should have the right to self- defense without consequence. To force a door in any Western democratic state...[pauses] If he, a person, entered a garden over the fence...[pauses] It is his inviolable personal property. No one has the right to enter the living quarters, the land that belongs to him, without his permission. But what happens here? They break down the door with a lump of scrap-iron, enter, and start to kill you with this lump of iron and you can do nothing, because you yourself may be imprisoned. That is why, by edict, a person should not be punished for defending his personal property and living quarters. [passage omitted]

Sales of weapons have reached very dangerous levels and are becoming a profitable business for criminal elements. More than 1,000 rifles were stolen last year alone, the majority of them belonging to the Defense Ministry. Measures are being taken to seize arms from criminals. In the area around Almaty a group of arms dealers made up of military servicemen has been uncovered and 30 grenade-throwers, 82 grenades, 72 rifles, and enough ammunition to wage a small local war were confiscated from them. Therefore, as an addition to existing regulations, criminal responsibility has been established for stealing fire-arms, ammunition, weapons, and explosives by abuse of official position. As for the Defense Ministry, Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov, and all departments that have arsenals, I am giving you one month to introduce order and establish strict control. Each leader will be personally responsible. Each minister will make a report in one month's time.

The state should react adequately to the fact that arms are becoming widespread among civilians. More than 1,000 fire-arms were given up during 1994. As I was told, 1,500 illegally kept arms were discovered during a three to four day operation. And we say 1,000 for a year. That is nonsense. There are many more. It is necessary to halt in every way possible the practice of illegal circulation of weapons among civilians. Important preventive measures are to be taken in line with my edict, including a period of one month for people who illegally possess arms to hand in their arms voluntarily. For one month until 15 May [as heard], those who voluntarily hand in their arms are to be pardoned. After that the law will come into force on criminal punishment for illegally possessing arms. [passage omitted]

All our efforts to fight crime will be brought to nothing if crime spreads in state bodies, especially in law enforcement bodies. Unfortunately, recently there have been a number of criminal cases that directly strike against the authority of the state's forces. For example, (Urazov), deputy prosecutor of East Kazakhstan Region, was arrested and convicted for bribery. In Taldykorgan, (Zhaltayev), a town court judge, was arrested while accepting a bribe. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against (Tyslenko), the head of the Arbitration Court of East Kazakhstan Region. (Tuyakbayev), (Malakhov), (Teterkin), and (Shayekenov) frankly speaking are the direct concern of the departments headed by you. Or have such incidents become an ordinary occurrence in your spheres and it does not worry you at all?

Against a background of constant personnel mistakes in the court and prosecutor system, I am ever more convinced that the head of state should impose tough control on the personnel policy pursued by them. At the same time, all departmental interests need to be cut off, including putting an end to the competition between judges and the Justice Ministry. I consider it is time to establish under the president a supreme judicial council. The Constitution gives me this right. Moreover, I have to reconfirm all the judges appointed by the former illegitimate Supreme Council. We will see who remains in their post and who does not. But I must warn that I will appoint judges as president only if a clear mechanism for sacking judges and ridding the judicial body of people who have disgraced themselves is established.

In connection with the fact that casual people penetrate the law enforcement bodies, there is a leak of information from investigation bodies. As a result, information which is not supposed to be public during a criminal investigation immediately after a criminal case starts, reaches the media, or even worse, criminals. And then where is the secrecy of investigation established by the law? Here only one thing is visible: The mercenary interests of certain officials. This has to be sorted out and an end put to this outrage. Responsibility for divulgence of investigation secrets should be increased and culprits punished without compromise.

In this context, the fight against the corruption in the state machinery is urgent as never before. The Law on state Service could have acted as a barrier against the criminalization of the state machinery. But the Justice Ministry has been working on its draft for four months, that is why I ask you to submit it to me as soon as possible in the shape of an edict that has the force of law.

In 1992 I issued a resolution increasing the responsibilities of officials of bodies of state departments for conditions of discipline, public order, and security, and in June last year a resolution on additional measures to ensure legality and law and order. As a result of these measures, criminal proceedings were instituted against 4,500 officials in state bodies for misappropriating state property on a particularly large scale, and against over 900 for abusing their positions, exceeding their authority, and negligence, and against 300 for bribery. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, I want to say the following: The tendency toward rampant criticism of the authorities, the lack of

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respect for state institutions that has appeared after the collapse of the union state [the USSR], the absence in society of deep-rooted democratic standards, the weak culture of lawfulness, and the difficult process of establishing statehood—all this creates the grounds for a rapid rise in crime. The criminal always clearly feels any weakening of authority.

There is one conclusion that follows from this. The rampant crime in the country is the result of an absence of authority. And I probably should be the first to admit my guilt to our people. When one state body points at another, and the problem is not resolved. The people are already tired of this. People are demanding the introduction of immediate order in the country, a merciless fight against social evil. And for this we need a democratically-formed, but strong authority at the basis of which lies all integrity and unity. We must clearly realize that the division of power is a mechanism for dividing up competences and nothing more. For if you think about it we, in democratic euphoria, in essence, created dual authority in the provinces, triple authority at the summit, and maybe even quadruple authority, it is said. People turn to administrations, to local authorities, although at times they receive no help anywhere. Every branch of authority in the regions strives to intertwine with another, to be in opposition to another and executive authority, elementary executive authority, at times is absent. Criminals feel themselves free in such conditions. And some people, with political aims, are beginning to try to find the hidden motives for these criminals.

Today it is becoming ever more evident that a fully presidential republic is the way to resolve this task. And without this it is probably difficult to count on the victory of the reforms in Kazakhstan. In conditions of a presidential republic parliament must be a purely legislative body with clearly defined competences, living genuinely for the concerns of the people and adopting democratic laws, understood by all, to defend the people's interests. The government, first and foremost, is an executive body, which is fully responsible to the parliament and president for its actions. The court is the body for defending human rights and freedoms, the Constitution and laws, independent when administering justice. And the president, as head of state, embodying the unity of authority, must ensure the coordinated cooperation of all state bodies, not permit the appearance of conflicts between them, determine domestic and foreign policy, and ensure the responsibility of all state bodies and officials before the Constitution and the country's people. And I will be asked why this does not exist? Because today's Constitutions and laws are not like that, they do not allow work to be done in such a regime. This means reforms are necessary. [passage omitted]

Nazarbayev Approves 1995 Budget

LD1703193095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1625 GMT 17 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev issued a decree approving the country's 1995 budget.

Under the legislative act on provisional delegation of additional powers to the president, this decree will act as a law from January 1.

Officials in the Finance Ministry told Interfax that the budget has been approved intact, as passed by the former parliament on March 3.

The budget revenue is 136,328,429,000 tenge ($1 = 60.5 tenge), the spending is 175,707,878,000 tenge and the deficit 39,379,449,000 tenge, or 3.5% of the GDR [as received].

The country's Constitutional Court ruled that the parliament was unconstitutional and so all laws passed by it need presidential approval.

Kyrgyzstan

NATO Delegations Interested in Strategic Airfields

LD1803174495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian in the "Vremya" newscast at 1800 GMT on 17 March carries a two-minute report from the frontier between Kyrgyzstan and China.

Announcer Nelli Petkova introduces the item by saying that Kyrgyzstan does not have any anti-aircraft defense system. Correspondent Fedorov goes on to explain that Russian troops are defending the frontier, but the anti-aircraft posts of the former USSR have been mothballed for almost three years now. Kyrgyzstan has neither the manpower nor the funds to maintain them, he says.

Kyrgyz Defense Minister General Murzakan Subanov says that "as there is no counterintelligence system, the radar stations have partially been closed down, there is no early-warning system, therefore I think that aircraft will have to be detected in the Urals area, in Arkhangelsk if there is a Russian anti-aircraft system there."

Fedorov concludes by saying that "increasingly frequent visits to Bishkek by NATO delegations are a characteristic feature of the last few years. It is not difficult to work out that the business people's excursions have a completely defined strategic aim. This little mountainous republic which is not even able to provide footwear and clothing for its 12,000-strong army does nonetheless have several military airfields in the corridor between Russia and China. Although these bases have been neglected they could still be revived."

Subanov adds that "if people in Russia do not decide what stance they are taking definitely in 1995, I think

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that other forces will come forward, other states that will show serious interest which will in practice take their own measures."

Video footage shows General Subanov being interviewed, frontier posts in snow-covered mountains and helicopters and radar installations.

Akayev Discusses Bilateral Ties With PRC Envoy

LD2003093895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0816 GMT 20 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek March 20 TASS—President of Kyrgyzstan Asker Akayev received Chinese ambassador to the country Pan Zhanlin today.

It was noted at the meeting that relations between Kyrgyzstan and China are developing successfully. Good relations have been established between the Xingjiang-Uigur region of China and Kyrgyzstan. About 60 to 100 thousand Kyrgyz nationals living on the contiguous territory, according to various assessments, maintain ties with their relatives in the republic.

Trade turnover between Kyrgyzstan and China currently stands at 25 per cent of Kyrgyzstan's whole foreign trade turnover. Understandings on making available its roads to Kyrgyzstan by the Chinese side for transportation of Chinese goods to Pakistan, India and South-East Asian countries exist between the two countries. Besides this, China does not object to annual transmission of power across its territory to Pakistan, an understanding on which reached between Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan at the beginning of 1995.

China was among the first countries to materially help Kyrgyzstan when landslides destroyed dwellings of many residents in the republic's south and killed more than 100 people. Shortages of garments, knitwears and shoes were to certain extent overcome in Kyrgyzstan with the help of cheap Chinese goods.

Tajikistan

Rakhmanov Discusses Cooperation in Islamabad

LD1703151095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1205 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, Mar 16 (Interfax)—Security on the Tajik-Afghan border and settlement in Tajikistan were discussed when President Emomali Rakhmanov visited Pakistan on March 14-15, presidential aid Saidmurod Fattoyev said.

Representatives from Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan met in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad on March 13-14.

Fattoyev said that the leaders of Tajikistan's neighboring countries said they were prepared to help it settle the conflict by political means.

The conference was devoted to regional cooperation and economic integration.

Fattoyev said that in the course of his visit to Islamabad Rakhmanov met with the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Presidents of Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan.

He said that as President Rakhmanov met with his Afghan counterpart Borhanoddin Rabbani, bilateral economic cooperation was discussed.

Fattoyev said that an agreement was achieved to draft and sign a Tajik-Pakistani agreement of economic cooperation, including a project to build a highway connecting Tajikistan with the Pakistani seaport of Karachi.

Foreign Minister Meets Head of UN Observers

LD1803093895 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday [17 March], Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov received Darko Silevic, the new head of the UN observers group in our country, who replaced Liviu Bota in this post. Darko Silevic talked about the aims and tasks of the group of UN observers in our country. During the conversation, issues of stabilizing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, as well as preparations for the next, the fourth round of talks on Tajikistan were discussed. Nazarov expressed his hope that the UN observers will contribute to the establishment of peace and tranquillity on the territory of Tajikistan.

Yesterday, Darko Silevic also talked to Colonel General Valeriy Patrikeyev, the commander of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces. They discussed the tasks of the UN observers and the collective peacekeeping forces in defending peace and cooperation between them.

Report on Halt of Gas Supplies From Uzbekistan

LD1803120895 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 0432 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text]

Why Has the Gas Vanished?

It is the third day since neighboring Uzbekistan cut off the supply of natural gas to the republic. As a result of this, the inhabitants of the capital cannot use their gas stoves at home. The Tajik aluminum plant and the Dushanbe cotton association are among the industrial enterprises that function on natural gas. Therefore, production has been brought to a halt.

What is the reason? KHOVAR correspondent Andrey Sidorin put this question to Tajik Deputy Prime Minister Hamidijon Temirjonov.

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"The reason for gas supplies to the republic being cut off is very simple; it is the huge debt owed to Uzbekistan. As of today, the republic owes Uzbekistan $142 million for gas alone.

"We signed an intergovernmental agreement in Tashkent recently, under which the Uzbek side undertook to supply not less than 90,000 cubic meters of natural gas per hour to the republic every month. [as received] However, our neighbor has so far supplied us with only 80 percent of the gas envisaged in the intergovernmental agreement.

"The reason for gas supplies being cut off this time was the delay in payment for the March gas supply. However, at the moment, the money—$3 million—has already been transferred by Tajikistan. After the Uzbek Central Bank acknowledges receipt of the money, gas supplies to the republic will be resumed.

"In our view, however, the practice of cutting off gas supplies without notifying the Tajik side in advance is not a way out of the current difficult situation. The Tajik aluminum plant alone incurred a loss of $5 million due to the three-day enforced standstill from 15-17 March.

"The Government of Tajikistan has now put together a program, the implementation of which will make it possible for the republic to clear the debts it owes to Uzbekistan for gas supplies within one and a half to two years. Our neighbor has already written off $21 million of the country's debt in exchange for the railway transit of Uzbek goods through Tajik territory.

"We pin great hopes on the recently established government committee for oil and gas, which is to tackle issues connected with the exploitation of Tajik gas deposits."

Business Congress Opens in Dushanbe

LD1803123795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1205 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe March 18 KHOVAR news agency for TASS—The first Congress of Businessmen and Entrepreneurs of Tajikistan opened here today.

The congress is attended by delegates from all Tajikistan's regions, and from CIS States, Lithuania, Afghanistan, Syria, the United States and Italy.

The two-day congress will discuss its future objectives and pass a charter.

Tajik Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov said in an opening address that Tajikistan had been through political reforms, and the president and the government now placed great hopes on a new businessmen class which is called to lead the Tajik economy out of its severe crisis. The state proclaims the protection of private property as a main lever in transition to a market economy, Karimov said.

The prime minister called on foreign businessmen to take an active part in the development of Tajikistan's resources and setting up joint textile and agricultural productions.

Karimov stressed that the government would give priority to establishing joint ventures with the CIS states. Relevant intergovernmental agreements have been signed, Karimov said.

Prime Minister Addresses Congress

LD1803143795 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today the first congress of entrepreneurs and businessmen of Tajikistan opened in Dushanbe. Here is a report from our correspondent Lazzat Dilovarzod.

[Dilovarzod] Dear listeners, today the first congress of entrepreneurs and businessmen of Tajikistan opened in Dushanbe. [passage omitted]

Tajik Prime Minister Dzhamshed Karimov spoke at the congress.

[Begin Karimov recording] I should say, however, that the main evidence of the adherence of the president and the government and all of its structures to the development of the market economy is the adoption of the edict on 3 December on speeding up market transformations, which the chairman of your congress has spoken about well here. Every profession today has its past, present, and future. If we talk about the past, then it is that today we still have in our structures and in our minds the echoes of the centralized system, when everybody strived for centralized planning and for centralized allocations. Although this system was formally annihilated, the structures have been preserved and are still in existence. The most important thing is that there are some people who still think in this way. I believe that this stratum and this past is gradually decreasing and reducing. Their potentiality [words indistinct] that we are creating today. The most important thing, however, is that today the conference of businessmen and entrepreneurs is uniting people, who are sitting not only in this hall but who are outside this hall. They are in all parts of our republic.

I would say that today, unfortunately, because of a number of circumstances, our businessmen and entrepreneurs can be found from Tokyo to San Fransisco. The task of our congress is evidently that we should appeal to our compatriots throughout the world: Come back to the republic. Come back with your capital, with your knowledge, with your interests so that we can enrich our homeland. [end recording]

[Dilovarzod] Karimov stressed that until now the businessmen and entrepreneurs of Tajikistan have not had a law protecting entrepreneurs and businessmen. That is why entrepreneurs and businessmen are not working properly on enriching the republic's economy.

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The congress will continue its work tomorrow.

Report on Parliamentary Election Results

LD1703185995 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 1213 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Having considered the protocols on the results of elections of people's deputies of the Republic of Tajikistan, presented by constituency electoral commissions, the Central Electoral Commission reports that 2,650,267 people were on the electoral role for the parliamentary elections and that 2,413,722 people took part in the voting, or 91.07 percent.

For the elections 181 constituencies were formed. There were 350 candidates in them.

The elections took place in every constituency and on 26 February 1995 people's deputies to the Supreme Assembly of the Republic of Tajikistan were elected in 163 constituencies. In 17 constituencies, in each of which more than two candidates stood and none was elected, a repeat vote was held on 12 March 1995.

In one constituency where two candidates stood and neither was elected, in line with Article 48 of the law of the Republic of Tajikistan on elections to the Supreme Assembly of the Republic of Tajikistan a repeat vote will be held.

On the basis of Article 44 of the law on elections, the Central Electoral Commission has registered all 180 people's deputies of the Republic of Tajikistan elected on 26 February and in repeat votes on 12 March 1995.

[Signed] The Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Meets Russian Deputy Premier Bolshakov

LD1703175095 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov received Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov and Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev. Our head of state, greeting the Russian guests, noted in particular that relations between our countries are expanding and growing on a mutually advantageous basis and have a bright future.

For his part, Deputy Prime Minister Bolshakov expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and made some proposals for improving cooperation. Questions concerning trade and economic cooperation for 1995 were also discussed.

Bakhtiar Hamidov and Yuriy Paygin, deputy prime ministers of Uzbekistan; Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Komilov; and Filipp Sidorskiy, Russian ambassador to Uzbekistan, also took part in the meeting.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

LD1903102295 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1400 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, a Russian Federation Government delegation has been in Tashkent. The main purpose of the visit to Uzbekistan was the discussion of questions connected with the further expansion of trade, economic, and other relations between the two countries. The documents signed on Uzbek-Russia financial cooperation as a result of the talks will serve as a new stimulus for mutually advantageous contacts. They were signed by Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister Bakhtiyar Khamidov, and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov. Deputy prime ministers of the republic Kayim Khakkulov and Yuriy Paygin were present when the documents were signed.

World Bank Provides Credits to Uzbekistan

LD1703154895 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 17 Mar 95 p 2

[Unattributed article: "The World Bank credit proves the promise of the republic's economy"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Parvez Hasan [name as published], head of the World Bank's regional representative office, told journalists about the conclusion of negotiations on extending a rehabilitation credit to Uzbekistan totalling $160 million. All the necessary documents for this are currently with the bank's board of executive directors, and it will finally be decided by the end of March.

These questions were the topic of discussions early in March in Paris, at the first meeting of the Consultative Group on the Republic of Uzbekistan, under the chairmanship of Yukon Huang [name as published], director of the World Bank department for Europe and Central Asia. Taking part in the meeting were representatives of 18 countries and organizations, including Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, and Great Britain, and such international organizations as the European Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Financial Corporation, the IMF, and others. [passage omitted]

Participants in the meeting also discussed Uzbekistan's requirements in terms of investments and technical assistance. Technical assistance was offered in a number of directions for implementing reforms, attracting investment, and increasing the republic's industrial potential. It was noted at the meeting that a considerable amount of foreign financing will be required in the next few years for investment in the power sector and important economic sectors. Donors have taken up financial obligations of more than $900 million, out of which $45 million are for technical assistance, $300 million for supporting the balance of payments, and $580 million for financing.

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Continuing the theme of the Paris discussions, Parvez Hasan expressed hope that in two months' time the World Bank will also consider the issue of extending Uzbekistan a 20-year cotton loan, which could be directed at supporting the seed industry and financing purchases of equipment for providing a better certification of cotton.

Credit Suisse Opens Office in Tashkent

LD1703164995 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1000 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday [16 March] an event of world significance occurred in the capital of our republic. The Credit Suisse Bank of Switzerland became one of the first to open a representative office in Tashkent.

The management of the Credit Suisse Bank representative office, leaders of the government of our republic, and banking sphere leaders took part in an event organized on this occasion. [passage omitted]

The fact that the Credit Suisse Bank is beginning its activity in the capital of our republic will help to develop and strengthen practical relations between our country and Switzerland.

Tashkent Meeting Devoted to Aral Sea Problems

LD1803102395 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0600 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An international meeting was held on the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with the international fund ECOSAN [expansion unknown] and representatives of foreign missions in Uzbekistan. The meeting discussed the problems of the Aral Sea region, in particular, social security and ecological protection for the population of Khorezm Region.

Professor Yusufjon Shodimetov, the president of the international fund ECOSAN, chaired the meeting and gave a report on the work done with foreign organizations as regards the Aral Sea problem.

Halid Malik, the permanent UN representative to Uzbekistan, provided information on the international forum that is to take place this year in Nukus on 18-20 September, and stressed that it is necessary to attract the world community's attention to this forum.

Trade Union Congress Supports 26 Mar Referendum

LD1803123495 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 18 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The 15th Congress of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan was held in the Turkiston Palace in Tashkent. The congress delegates, veterans, and activists of the trade union movement, representatives of ministries and departments and of public organizations and guests from many foreign countries gathered for the meeting.

Kh. Jamolov, chairman of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, opened the congress.

Kh. Jurayev, the state adviser to the president, read out to those present the greetings of President Islam Karimov to the delegates of the 15th Congress of Uzbek trade unions, trade union activists, and veterans.

Kh. Jamolov, chairman of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, gave a report on the work undertaken during the period under examination, and on the tasks of the republic's trade unions arising from the main principles of the republic's sociopolitical and economic development.

The congress noted that the results of the first session of the Supreme Assembly and the report of President Islam Karimov, its positions and conclusions, have become a program of future action for the citizens of the republic. It was stressed that the of parliament resolution on conducting a referendum on 26 March on extending the term of office of the president until the year 2000 has obtained the warm approval and support of the entire population. The delegates' attention was focused on the necessity of more active participation by trade union organizations of all levels in the implementation of the reforms and in improving their effectiveness.

The foreign guests who made speeches at the congress, including E. Abakirov, the head of a Kyrgyzstan trade union delegation, Lyu Shozhen [name as received], head of the all-China Trade Union Federation, A. Stoyan, head of the Ukrainian Trade Union Federation, and others appraised highly the reforms carried out under President Islam Karimov's leadership and noted that the country's trade unions are making a worthy contribution to the process of renewal and wished them success in their future activities.

The charter and program of the trade unions, united in the Uzbek Trade Union Federation, were adopted at the congress, and the regulations of the Control and Revision Committee of the Uzbek Trade Union Federation were approved.

Kh. Jamolov was elected chairman of the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan.

The congress delegates adopted an appeal to all trade union members to take an active part in the 26 March referendum on extending the term of office of the President of Uzbekistan.

Taking part in the work of the congress were Prime Minister Abdulkhashim Mutalov, Timur Alimov, the presidential state adviser, Ubbiniyaz Ashirbekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Deputy Prime Ministers Saidmukhtar Saidkasymovich and Dilbar Ghulomova, and Kazim Tulyaganov, head of the administration of the city of Tashkent.

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Karimov Speech to Trade Unionists

LD1803132695 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 18 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As has already been reported, on 16 March, President Islam Karimov received a group of activists and veterans of Uzbek trade unions. The head of state through them congratulated all working people on an historical event—the 70th anniversary of the country's trade unions.

"We are building a new, independent, legal, democratic state based on the principles of the market economy," Islam Karimov said. "And if that is the case, then it is natural that in the new conditions the place in society assigned to trade unions, which are the protector of working people's rights, changes. Socioeconomic relations are being radically reformed in the country. Apart from state property, personal, private, and joint-stock forms of property are being confirmed. Today we must once again clearly define the duties and obligations of trade union workers in the new social conditions. Five principles for implementing the economic reforms are being developed during the period of transition toward the market economy. We have laid out a strategy and tactics for a strong social policy and the reliable protection of the vital interests of the population. This principle is of paramount importance of the state's domestic policy," the president emphasized.

"What is the meaning of this predominating principle? What do we mean by strong social policy?

"Today it is necessary for us to introduce clarity to these concepts. First, this is the legal guarantee of the protection of the interests of the working people, working collectives, and the entire population, adopting measures ruling out a decline in living standards and the possibility of such a situation appearing. The second obligatory principle is the fact that the social protection of needy families, invalids, old men, and children should never be lost from sight. It is very important on no account to ignore solutions to the problems of protecting motherhood and childhood, preventing unemployment, rendering assistance on a legal basis to the temporarily unemployed and chronically sick. The organization of leisure and complete rest for people is also part of the strong social policy mentioned above. The implementation of these measures will be the basis for the realization of the principle of social justice and will allow stability in society to be further preserved and strengthened. And if the implementation of this policy is the task of state and local administrative structures, then control over the implementation of the plans is a direct obligation of the trade unions—protectors of the interests of the working people.

"How correctly do the trade unions and their activists understand the tasks mentioned above? Do their organizational structure and methods of work meet the requirements of the times? Is the world outlook of the workers and their attitude to work changing? Does everybody understand correctly the importance of the reforms being carried out in the country? Are there those who long for the old system among them? Today the answers to these serious questions should be found.

"World experience shows that the transition from one system to an other is nowhere easy and smooth. A regular feature of this process is that the number of people who need social protection increases at this time. That is why the state directs its policy at improving the living standards of its citizens, at protecting them from the blows of the market economy. The trade unions must actively participate in the implementation of this policy. One of the urgent tasks of the trade unions is finding needy families and supporting them financially and spiritually—establishing special and trustworthy relations with them." [passage omitted]

"Trade unions, summing up the results and critically analyzing their work, must define their plans for the future—taking into consideration the experience of similar public organizations of the world's developed countries. And in this sense, that the trade unions regulate their relations with the state and enterprises on a basis of social partnership, is a positive factor of today's stage of the transition period. Therefore, the basic aim of state, executive power, and the trade unions is the same. As I have already emphasized at the Supreme Council session this is also a part of the construction of a successful and prosperous society on the basis of free, democratic, and market relations.

"And the trade union activists can do much to explain this great goal, freeing the consciousness of people from the mood of dependency, because they are always among the working people and live with their concerns.

"When building a new democratic society it is necessary to eliminate the red tape rooted in trade union practice and parallelism in governing bodies. It is necessary to get rid of excessive managerial apparatus in the trade union structure, as the inflated personnel of the apparatus is a burden for ordinary trade union members. It is high time to re-attest the authorities of the republican, regional, and district organizations, to think of bringing young people who think in the new way into these structures."

Islam Karimov dwelled on the major features of domestic and foreign policy in detail, and on the significance of the reforms implemented. He noted that support for entrepreneurs and reliable protection of the interests of the new owners of property is also an immutable trade union obligation. [passage omitted]

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Armenia

Armenian Delegation Visits Iran, Returns

NC1703184095 Yerevan SNARK in English 1434 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, March 17 (SNARK)—After signing the Agreement on Russian Military Base on the territory of Armenia, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and other officials left Moscow for Iran. Here, the Armenian President together with heads of the states of the region participated in the opening ceremony of Kerman-Baudar-e 'Abbas railway line. In future, when the blockade is removed, this line will open a way to the Persian Gulf for Armenia, President's Press Secretary Levon Zurabyan said.

Members of the Armenian official delegation came back to Yerevan on Friday [17 March].

Concord Alliance Asks Russia To Annul Kars Treaty

LD1703185495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, Mar 17 (INTERFAX)—Armenia's National Concord Alliance, embracing five opposition parties, deems it necessary to declare the Kars Treaty, concluded by Turkey and Russia on March 16, 1921, invalid.

"As a result of the treaty's signing, Armenia was territorially divided, and Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan became part of Azerbaijan," Paruyir Airikyan, leader of the Alliance, declared at a meeting with Russia's Ambassador Andrey Urnov in Yerevan Thursday [16 March].

Airikyan emphasized that "the treaty, signed by Bolshevik Russia with Turkey, now does not reflect relations between Russia and Armenia, democratic countries."

Airikyan asked Urnov to deliver to Russian President Boris Yeltsin a letter explaining the Alliance's stance on the matter.

Minister on Importance of Russian Military Treaty

LD1703203595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1931 GMT 17 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan March 17 TASS—"The treaty on a Russian military base in Armenia is an important political and military event," Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduard Zuloyan said here today. Addressing a briefing at the Armenian president's residency, Zuloyan recalled that this treaty will regulate deployment of Russian troops in the republic. The diplomat called it a "very important document for both countries". The thing is that the legal space of the two countries contains disparities on many issues. That is why this treaty envisages a harmonization of them, he said.

Must the Russian side come to an agreement with the Armenian authorities about its participation in combat actions on the territory of Armenia? The Foreign Ministry representative noted that this question should be resolved by supreme commanders of armed forces of the two countries, that is the presidents. The same concerns the question of deploying additional military contingents in Armenia, he said.

The treaty should have nothing to do with the process of a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the diplomat further said. The head of the two states think that this is military-technical cooperation between Russia and Armenia. This is another matter, how the Azerbaijani side will react to this document. If it is really interested in a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the question of the treaty must not become a topic of speculations, the deputy minister emphasised.

Azerbaijan Events May Impact Conflict Settlement

NC1703182995 Yerevan SNARK in English 1626 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, March 17 (SNARK)—Deputy Foreign Minister Eduard Zuloyan thinks the latest events in Azerbaijan may affect negatively the negotiation process on the settlement of Karabakh conflict. He expressed his concern at a briefing with journalists today.

At the same time, while answering the SNARK question whether the situation in Azerbaijan may be the cause of failure of the upcoming meeting in Stockholm under the aegis of OSCE Minsk group, Mr. Zuloyan said there are no such symptoms either in connection with this meeting, or with respect to the whole process in the framework of the Minsk conference. Today Azerbaijan acknowledges its readiness to proceed the work. It is important that the format of the last meeting of parties in Moscow would preserve in Stockholm, he said.

Romanian Economic Delegation Ends Visit

NC1803140095 Yerevan SNARK in English 1639 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, March 17 (SNARK)—The Government delegation of Romania headed by senior official of European Department of the Trade Ministry Myrcha Touder has ended its visit in Armenia. Romanian economic mission had meetings with a number of officials in various ministries and organizations of Armenia, with purpose to establish trade and economic relations.

At today's meeting with journalists Mr. Touder said Romania is interested not only in distribution of its

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goods in Armenia, but also in transit of them to the neighboring states. Most convenient for this purpose would be the utilization of Black Sea ports Batumi in Georgia and Constanza in Romania.

Nuclear Power Plant Expected Operational by May

NC1803182995 Yerevan SNARK in English 1403 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, March 18 (SNARK)--The second block of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant (ANPP) is scheduled to be started in May, 1995, Vice Premier Vigen Chitechyan informed journalists at a press conference today. According to him, the main restoration works should to be finished by April 1. Then all other systems will be tested before putting the plant into operation. The vice primer stresses that the earthquake warning systems has become more reliable. Next month additional measures will be taken to provide the safety of the ANPP.

Russian First Deputy Minister of Nuclear Energetics, Lev Ryabev, highly appreciated joint work of Armenian and Russian specialists during the restoration of the plant. He also added, the population will be supplied with the ANPP energy from June, 1995. According to him, the second block has been guaranteed for a 30 year time period but it had worked nine years until the 1989 Power Plant shut down. Armenian Ministry of Energy and Fuel, Miron Shishmanyan, who also participated at the press conference, told the journalists that other branches of energetics would be developed too. For example, a new thermal electric power plant is planned to built in Yerevan instead of earlier one. Besides, the 5th block of Hrazdan hydro electric power station will be also put into operation. But the most important, according to Shishmanian, is the development of nuclear energetics, particularly, investigation of the ANPP 1st block. In case of positive results, works on restoration and putting into action will be started. Armenia needs all the above mentioned to be independent on the external sources of energy.

Azerbaijan

Reportage, Commentary on Police Rebellion in Azerbaijan

Aliyev, Guliyev, Ministers Make Statements

NC1703165595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri, received with very poor reception on 216 kHz, at 0800 GMT on 17 March broadcasts a 220-minute program on statements by President Geydar Aliyev and other high-ranking officials.

At 0800 GMT, the program begins with Aliyev's statement in progress. Statements by Aliyev and other unidentified officials remain virtually unmonitorable until around 0855 GMT when Aliyev is heard referring to his 15 March address to the nation during which he called on OPON members to accept his conditions for surrender. Continuing to detail his efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully and criticizing former Deputy Interior Minister Rovshan Javadov for attempting to seize power, Aliyev says that in the end Javadov failed to undermine Azerbaijan's independence, and adds: "I personally thank all our fighters and our citizens who served in the defense of Azerbaijan's statehood and independence."

Aliyev goes on to say: " The coup attempt in Azerbaijan on the night of 16-17 March failed." He then adds that the failed coup was the continuation of the coup attempt in October 1994 in which Javadov was also involved. He says the coupists are "controlled by various circles, by various mafioso groups in Azerbaijan, and unfortunately certain political parties are exploiting such people to seize power." He says: "I want to state with satisfaction that the Azerbaijan state is henceforth able to protect itself; it has, and will continue to have, the strength, will, and every means to do so."

Stating that "disruption of stability in Azerbaijan also concerns every state around Azerbaijan," Aliyev says that Turkish President Suleyman Demirel "expressed his concern and in an official statement called for the preservation of stability in Azerbaijan." Aliyev adds that Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, the U.S. State Department, and other states also expressed concern.

Aliyev then says his policy aims at "protecting Azerbaijan's sovereignty, statehood, territorial integrity, and the inviolability of its borders, securing the welfare of the Azerbaijani people, extricating Azerbaijan from this (?grave) condition, leading Azerbaijan along a democratic path, implementing democratic reforms in Azerbaijan, holding democratic elections, and adopting a democratic constitution."

At around 0940 GMT, Acting National Security Minister Namik Abbasov starts speaking and notes that the authorities were aware of the preparations for the coup attempt by circles supported by former President Ayaz Mutalibov and former Prime Minister Suret Guseynov.

At 0950 GMT, Interior Minister Ramil Usubov says that they had prior information about the impending coup attempt and had already taken measures against it. He too accused Ayaz Mutalibov, Suret Guseynov, and former Defense Minister Rahim Gaziyev for supporting Rovshan Javadov. Recounting the developments leading to the coup attempt, he says: "I took measures and all important objects were placed under protection, the roads were barricaded, and the heroic soldiers of the military unit [words indistinct] prevented this crime against the state." He says the participants in the crime have been jailed, searches are continuing and once the criminals are caught they will be brought to justice.

Addressing Aliyev, Usubov says his ministry managed to prevent this crime even if some of the measures taken

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were a bit late. He adds that at present the ministry's employees are cooperating with other law-enforcement organs to detain the criminals. He adds his ministry's employees are "loyal to Azerbaijani statehood and to the esteemed president, and we will continue our struggle for the defense of our statehood in the future by closely uniting around you."

Defense Minister Sefer Abiyev makes a very brief statement in Russian at 1000 GMT.

Next, Acting Prosecutor General Eldar Gasanov speaks. His statement recounting the developments of recent days is mostly unmonitorable. He says the investigation will soon reveal all the facts about the case.

At around 1010 GMT, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Rasul Guliyev begins speaking. In a mostly unmonitorable statement, he too accuses Mutalibov of being behind the incidents. He goes on to praise Geydar Aliyev for Azerbaijan's achievements. He adds that it was Geydar Aliyev who prevented civil war 1993 and a coup in October 1994. He adds: "Had Geydar Aliyev not been around today, who would have been able to block this act against our statehood and homeland? No one."

At 1030 GMT, Aliyev introduces the next speaker who, due to very poor reception, is unidentifiable. This person speaks in Russian.

Speaking next, Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov praises Aliyev for his efforts to resolve the problem peacefully. He describes the recent events as a state coup. He says he contacted his foreign counterparts and received unequivocal support for Aliyev. He says the presidents of Turkey and Turkmenistan offered to visit Azerbaijan in the coming days if invited. He says: "Let us once again express our gratitude to Aliyev for once more saving Azerbaijan from blood and calamity, for once again showing to the world that Azerbaijan is a law-based and democratic state and is capable of maintaining ties with the world states." He ends his statement at around 1050 GMT.

The next, unidentified, speaker describes the recent events as part of a larger carefully prepared scenario against Azerbaijan. He praises Aliyev's cool-headedness during the incidents. Most of his statement is unmonitorable.

At around 1100 GMT Aliyev inquires if any of the women present would like to make a statement. An unidentified woman makes a statement which is entirely unmonitorable.

Next, Aliyev makes a brief unmonitorable reference to Foreign Minister Gasanov and chuckles briefly.

The statement by another unidentified speaker is also unmonitorable.

The reception further deteriorates and at 1130 GMT Aliyev is heard making a mostly unmonitorable concluding statement thanking those "who saved our people from this great calamity." He also thanks some foreign countries and their diplomatic missions in Azerbaijan for their concern and support. He expresses condolences to the relatives of those who were martyred "while defending Azerbaijan's statehood." He concludes his statement at 1140 GMT.

Dozens Arrested After 'Coup Attempt'

NC1703142195 Paris AFP in English 1408 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, March 17 (AFP)—Azerbaijani authorities said they had arrested dozens of people on Friday [17 March] in the aftermath of crushing an alleged coup attempt by a mutinous and heavily armed police force.

The former Soviet republic's interior minister Ramil Usubov said the rebels' base was "destroyed, dozens of people have been arrested, and the search has begun for those hiding," Interfax news agency reported.

President Geydar Aliyev said the elite police unit had been planning to overthrow him later Friday.

Government troops stormed the police base in the capital Baku overnight, sparking an intense gunfight that ended about eight hours later with the rebels' surrender, Aliyev was quoted as saying by Interfax.

Azerbaijani officials said the ringleader, Rovshan Javadov, was killed in the fighting. But Aliyev said that Javadov's brother, Makhir, was among those who were being hunted.

All those who fled "will eventually be found and arrested," Usubov said.

Aliyev said four government soldiers had been killed and an unspecified number of rebels and civilians caught in the cross fire.

Rasul Guliyev, speaker of the Azerbaijani parliament, said that "dozens of young people were killed and wounded."

The security minister, Namik Abbasov, claimed that ex-president Ayaz Mutalibov and ex-prime minister Suret Guseynov were linked to the coup attempt and had planned to fly to Baku from exile in Moscow.

Minister: Rebel Stronghold Destroyed

LD1703160695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Mar 17 (Interfax)—Azerbaijan's minister of internal affairs Ramil Usubov says that the rebel stronghold in Baku "has been destroyed, dozens have been arrested and a search has been launched for those who managed to escape."

Addressing an emergency conference of the national government and law enforcement chiefs Friday in Baku,

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Usubov said that in the long run all those who escaped detention would be found and arrested. He said nothing about the fate of the killed rebel leader Rovshan Djavadov's brother, Makhir.

On March 17 government troops frustrated an attempt to seize control of the presidential palace and the buildings of the national parliament, television company and ministry of internal affairs, Usubov said.

The chairman of the national parliament Rasul Guliyev said in turn that on Thursday night and Friday morning "dozens of young people were killed and wounded" in Baku.

Azerbaijan's security minister Namik Abbasov said that the attempt to seize power was carefully planned and that at its last stage Azerbaijan's ex-president Ayaz Mutalibov and ex-prime-minister Suret Guseynov, currently based in Moscow, were to have joined the elite police unit.

Units loyal to Guseynov were put on combat alert in areas bordering on Georgia. Had the attempt to seize power been a success, they would have been ready to take immediate action, Abbasov said.

According to Abbasov, some political parties were about to support the rebels.

Defense Minister Safar Abiyev confirmed reports on the disarmament of the rebel unit. He said that regular army units had already returned to the barracks.

Aliyev Addresses Emergency Cabinet Meeting

LD1703175695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 17 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to President Geydar Aliyev, resistance by the Baku-based OPON, a special police unit, which refused to comply with the authorities decision to disband it, has been crushed.

Addressing an emergency cabinet meeting, attended by chief law enforcers, in Baku Friday, Aliyev announced that the "rebels" leader Rovshan Dzhavadov, former deputy interior minister, died in the Interior Ministry hospital Friday morning from a wound sustained in the course of a battle at the OPON base. The whereabouts of his brother Makhir are not known so far, Aliyev said.

He confessed that during the assault of the OPON stronghold there had been civilian and other casualties. However, he did not specify them and only said that at the very start of the battle four government troops had lost their lives. By his account, the battle, which peaked at 4 p.m. on Friday, ended round 11:40.

Aliyev assessed OPON's action as "an attempted coup" and said that despite attempts by the leadership to secure a peaceful solution to the crisis, the opposing side declined to negotiate.

According to the president, Rovshan Javadov and his followers planned to start an operation Friday morning to seize the main government facilities, including the presidential palace, parliament, national television, and interior department.

What happened on Friday showed that "the Azerbaijani state has finally got stronger and can overcome any obstacles to its emergence," Aliyev said. He expressed special gratitude to Defence Minister Safar Abiyev and Chief of Staff Nadzhmeddin Sadykhov for their successful OPON base seizure operation.

These events have marred Azerbaijan's "international image", Aliyev said, adding that foreign embassies have begun to evacuate their staffs. A number of visits to Azerbaijan has been cancelled.

OPON rebelled after Ravil Usubov, interior minister, signed the unit disbanding decree. The document stressed that OPON "has virtually become an unruly unit, has fully got out of ministry (Interior Ministry IF) control, and has entered in collusion with the criminal world." The OPON personnel was ordered to surrender arms. The Azerbaijani authorities made such a decision following March 13 events in the Akstafa and Kazakh regions in the republic's north-west, where a group of OPON officers seized the local administration and police premises. The OPON leaders described these actions as a "provocation", organized by Parliament Speaker Rasul Guliyev and Interior Minister Ramil Usubov, demanded their resignation, and ignored his order to disarm the special police squad. Later, demands emanated from the OPON Headquarters for President Aliyev to step down.

Ramil Usubov confirmed at the conference that the OPON base in Baku "was smashed, scores of people were arrested, and searches began for those who'd disappeared." He said nothing about the fate of Makhir Dzhavadov, a brother of the OPON chief Rovshan Javadov, who was also at the base.

Parliament speaker Rasul Guliyev disclosed that "scores of young people were killed or wounded" in clashes in Baku Thursday night and Friday morning.

National Security Minister Namik Abbasov suggested with reference to competent bodies that this coup attempt had been thoroughly planned. At the last stage of the mutiny, according to Abbasov, Dzhavadov was to be joined by the Moscow based ex Azerbaijani president Ayaz Mutalibov and former premier Suret Guseynov.

Abbasov reported that by his data, Guseynov militants had been put on alert in Azerbaijani areas, bordering with Georgia. "Given the successful course of events in Baku, they were ready to act any moment," he stressed, adding that some Azerbaijani political parties were ready to join them, too.

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Consultative Meeting Held on Situation

NC1703203495 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A large-scale consultative meeting on the incidents in Azerbaijan was held under President Geydar Aliyev today. The representatives's of the government, state advisers, leading officials of the ministries and administrations, and other officials attended the convocation. President Aliyev delivered the opening address. He said: The situation deteriorated in the republic during the past few days. The OPON [Special Purpose Police Detachment] units failed to end their activities against our state and constitution, regardless of the repeated appeals that were made to them. The objective of the OPON units, which were headed by Rovshan Javadov, was to attack the republic's administrative organs.

According to President Aliyev, four armed groups were organized by Rovshan Javadov to render the administrative organs ineffective. The first group was to occupy the presidential office on the night between 16 and 17 March. The second group was to occupy [words indistinct], the third group the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the fourth group the republic's radio and television network. An appeal was to be made to the people through the radio and television. Aliyev said: We moved to take action immediately after we were informed on the inauspicious activities against our state and constitution. So, operational measures were taken against the [words indistinct] on the night between 16 and 17 March. A clash took place and there were dead and wounded on both sides. Former Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Rovshan Javadov was wounded in the fighting. He was taken to a hospital. He later died there.

First Deputy Minister of National Security Abbasov, Minister of Internal Affairs Ramil Usubov, Director of the Special Presidential Administration Kamberov, Minister of Defense Sefer Abiyev, [title indistinct] Geydar Gasanov, Speaker of the National Assembly Rasul Guliyev, Acting Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev, Minister of Foreign Affairs Gasan Gasanov, Director of the State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company Babesk Guseyinoglu, State Adviser (Babur) Guseyinli, and First Deputy Minister of Justice [name indistinct] Gasanova addressed the meeting. They expressed support for the policy President Aliyev maintains to safeguard our state organization. President Aliyev summed up the convocation.

TV Journalist Killed in Baku Fighting

LD1703211595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2015 GMT 17 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevich Abdulayev and Viktor Shulm]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku March 17—According to preliminary data, Adyl Buniyatov, television journalist of the REUTERS news agency, was killed on Friday [17 March] when the Azerbaijani government troops stormed the headquarters of a rebel police unit outside the capital Baku, the press service of the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry told ITAR-TASS.

Public Services Running Normally

LD1803181595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1748 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The situation in Baku remained on the whole stable Saturday [18 March]. City buses and subway trains ran on schedule and industrial enterprises and trade centers functioned as they should, Interfax's correspondent in Baku said. Friday a rebellion of the elite police forces was suppressed in Baku.

Saturday afternoon the funeral of Colonel Rovshan Javadov who led the rebels, took place. Javadov died of gun wounds.

Also on Saturday the cameraman of the Reuters and Turan news agencies Adil Buniyatov was buried in Baku. Buniyatov came under fire Friday.

The fighting erupted after the elite police forces under Rovshan Javadov refused to turn in weapons and was surrounded by government troops.

According to preliminary reports, 40-odd people were killed and 60-odd - wounded on March 17. More than 200 people were arrested.

Unofficial sources say that Rovshan's brother Makhir was arrested Friday evening. The prosecutor's office has neither confirmed nor rejected that information.

The father of the Javadov brothers, Bakhtiyar, is said to have committed suicide but officers on duty of Azerbaijan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and security service say they have received no reports on his death.

Baku Internal Air Links Closed

NC1803114195 Baku TURAN in English 0624 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 17) TURAN—This morning Baku's Bina airport was closed. The Deputy Chief of the State air-company "Azal", Sabir Ilyasov, told TURAN that today by the resolution of the Defense Ministry all Azerbaijan's internal air-links were closed. However, all international air-links are opened. In the near future the traffic on local air-links will be resumed, Ilyasov said.

The closure of the airport is connected with the operation around the OPON [Special Purpose Police Unit] headquarters, the credible source from the Defense Ministry told TURAN.

This morning the exits out of "Neftchilyar" and "Halglar Dostlugu" metro stations were closed, the Police Department for subway protection [said]. The same source

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reports that the entrances to the subway on those stations are opened for those hiding from the fire.

According to the latest data, the fighting around the OPON headquarters continues.

Aliyev Phone Conversation With PM Ciller

NC1803185295 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The presidential press office has disclosed the following: President Geydar Aliyev and Prime Minister Tansu Ciller held a telephone conversation on 17 March. Prime Minister Ciller asked about the recent incidents in Azerbaijan and expressed full support for the measures that have been taken to foil the coup attempt in the republic. Prime Minister Ciller recalled that Turkey and its people have always supported the fraternal Azerbaijani people's struggle to safeguard Azerbaijan's independence and territorial integrity and said that they will continue to do so in the future.

The telephone conversation was held in a friendly and sincere atmosphere.

Aliyev Phone Conversation With Kuchma

NC1803190295 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Geydar Aliyev and President Leonid Kuchma held a telephone conversation on 17 March. President Kuchma welcomed the obstruction of the coup attempt in Azerbaijan. Meanwhile, President Aliyev [words indistinct] and said that the Azerbaijani people [words indistinct].

The telephone conversation was held in a friendly and sincere atmosphere.

Forty Killed, 200 Arrested in 'Mutiny'

LD1803190995 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Mar 95

[Report by Mais Mamedov in Baku; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the dramatic events of the last few days, Baku is absolutely calm today. At the same time, in accordance with the state of emergency that has been in force in the capital for over five months, city streets are being patrolled by police teams. The number of casualties caused by the suppression of the mutiny is being clarified. According to preliminary data, about 40 people have died and several dozen have been injured.

The Republic's National Assembly met today. It was to have considered the events that have taken place. However, Speaker Rasul Guliyev told the deputies that not all those implicated in the attempted coup d'etat had yet been identified. It was decided to examine the issue at the next sitting. The National Assembly agreed to institute criminal proceedings against Deputy Iskender Gamidov, former interior minister. He is accused, I quote, of assisting criminals, beating up journalists, and committing financial irregularities while serving as the head of the Interior Ministry. Parliamentarians do not rule out Gamidov's involvement in the latest events in Baku, which provoked bloodshed.

[Announcer Komarova] According to the Azerbaijan Interior Ministry, about 200 people have already been arrested for taking part in the mutiny. REUTER television journalist Buniyatov was buried in Baku today. He died while filming the storming of the OPON [special purpose police detachment] barracks.

Health Ministry: Death Toll at 36

NC1903111695 Baku TURAN in English 0108 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 18) TURAN—Today the Health Ministry of Azerbaijan stated that yesterday during the attack of OPON's [Special Purpose Police Detachment] head-quarters 36 people were killed and 58 were wounded. Six of them are civilians, who died occasionally, during the shelling between the conflicting parties. On the eve the same source stated about 28 killed.

According to unofficial information the number of killed during the attack of OPON's head-quarters by the governmental troops reaches 100. And the number of wounded is 150-200. According to the expert of forensic medicine most of corpses are in different hospitals and some of the killed has not been recognized yet. More than 10 wounded are in a very bad state.

Abiyev: Operation Against OPON Over

NC1903103295 Baku TURAN in English 0054 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 17) TURAN—Defence Minister Safar Abiyev said today at the session held in the presidential office that the operation which began today at 4:00 on the disarmament of OPON [Special Purpose Police Detachment] was over at 11.40. There are killed and wounded on both parts. According to TURAN correspondent reporting from the territory of the head-quarter of OPON the second floor of the building occupied by the governmental troops has burnt out, there are the corpse of the killed in the building. There is a fire in one of the neighbouring houses. Grenade discharge cups are used and shelling in neighbouring quarters continues.

Clashes Discussed With U.S. Ambassador

NC1903114195 Baku TURAN in English 0108 GMT 19 Mar 95

[Richard Kauzlarich: "After the Bloodshed on March 17 the Attitude of the USA to Azerbaijan Will Not Be as Previous"—TURAN headline]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 17) TURAN—Today Geydar Aliyev met with the Ambassador of the U.S. Richard Kauzlarich at his request.

The Ambassador said that he wanted to meet on two reasons. "First of all I would like to present condolences of our government to the relatives of yesterday's sacrifices," said the Ambassador. He noted that on March 17 he had several telephone conversations with his leaders in Washington. "I spoke to James Collins, who expressed concern over the events taking place in Baku," said the Ambassador. "The second reason is that I would like to inform you that after the bloodshed taking place in Baku on 17 March the attitude of the USA to Azerbaijan will not be the same as before," stressed the Ambassador. Geydar Aliyev did not lose his temper and said that he "highly appreciate the U.S.'s attention to Azerbaijan." Aliyev also said that he "highly appreciate the attention of the U.S. State Department which expressed concern over the events in Baku." These words by Geydar Aliyev are surprising as he merely ignored that appeal. That appeal of the U.S. State Department to Geydar Aliyev called to settle the conflict peacefully.

Then Aliyev said that he took all possible measures to avoid the bloodshed, but at night on March 17 the situation became more complicated and uncontrollable. Then the talks were held behind the closed doors.

Mejlis Strips Gamidov's Immunity

NC1903115995 Baku TURAN in English 0108 GMT 19 Mar 95

["The Milli Mejlis Do Not Consider It Necessary To Honour the Memory of the Killed Yesterday, But Has Deprived Iskender Gamidov the Deputy's Immunity"—TURAN headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 18) TURAN—Today a session of the Milli Mejlis was held. Opening the session, Rasul Guliyev insisted that the parliament begin its work by discussion of the issue on bringing the Deputy Iskender Gamidov to trial and by discussion of his arrest. Some deputies proposed to include into the agenda of the Mejlis the discussion of the bloody events taking place on the eve. Rasul Guliyev declined their proposal. He said that "the Milli Mejlis was not ready to discuss this issue." But the deputies voted to include this issue into agenda. Deputy General Prosecutor Khanlar Gajiyev read to deputies the document on bringing Iskender Gamidov to trial dated 24 March 1994. As the result, 34 members of the Milli Mejlis voted "for" for depriving Iskender Gamidov the deputy's immunity. The deputies from the opposition, representing the Democratic Congress, voted "against" or refrained.

After voting Rasul Guliyev said that issue concerning the tragic events taking place in Baku on 17 March will be discussed next week.

Objecting the speaker Deputy Etibar Mamedov reminded that this question has already been discussed in the presidential office. "The authorities always finds fault with the opposition in order to form the relevant opinion," said Etibar Mamedov. The Deputy Mirmahmud Fattayev also expressed indignation on that issue. But the speaker interrupted him and threatened to tell the Mejlis about secret sessions of the Azerbaijan's Popular [People's] Front." Then Rasul Guliyev left the Mejlis saying nothing, and the confused deputies had gone away.

The journalists who were there in the Parliament noted that they were surprised that speaker of the parliament did not proposed to honour the memory of the sacrifices of yesterday's events.

Police Raid Musavat Party Headquarters

NC1903112995 Baku TURAN in English 0108 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 18) TURAN—Early today the police made a raid to Musavat Party, headed Isa Gambar. The policemen drove away the car belonging to Isa Gambar and returned it in several hours without any explanations.

After that the policemen came to the head-quarter of Musavat party and told Isa Gambar that it is prohibited to hold any meetings or press-conferences.

Publication of Opposition Newspaper Banned

NC1903113495 Baku TURAN in English 0108 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 18) TURAN—Today the authorities prohibited the issue of oppositional newspaper "AZADLIG." According to one of journalists the issue of the newspaper was prohibited not by the censors, who agreed to issue the newspaper, but by Gambarov, the Head of Special Department of the president.

Party Statement on Aliyev's Handling of OMON

NC1903121095 Baku TURAN in English 0108 GMT 19 Mar 95

["Statement of Socio-Democratic Party Due To Bloody Events of March 17 in Baku"—TURAN headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (March 18) TURAN—President Aliyev once more violated the Constitution of the republic, which he vowed fidelity on Koran. Azeri President called in the question the legitimacy of his power, he did not have right to use force without the permission of the Parliament, the statement of Azerbaijan's Socio-Democratic Party due to the bloody events on March 18 at night reads.

The statement reads that another political crisis in the life of the republic ended with the bloody fight and fratricidal conflict.

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The demands of Rovshan Javadov and his methods are against the Constitution and the crisis is the logical consequence of the policy Azeri President pursues, the Socio-Democratic Party considers. "Instead of policy of consolidation and national reconciliation, President Aliyev pursued one-sided and clan policy, artificially forced the tension in the public to strengthen his own power. The Presidential team turned Azerbaijan into the country of corruption and brought it to the economic downfall", the statement reads.

The Socio-Democratic Party considers that "if such policy continues in the future the new crisis and tension will be inevitable".

"The party sees the only way in the political dialogue between different parties, which must end by the democratic Parliamentary elections", the statement reads.

Opposition Faces 'Tough Times' After Coup

LD1903174895 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1645 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tough times lie ahead for the political opposition in Azerbaijan after the coup attempt against the president was put down a couple of days ago. The publication of newspapers is being stopped and the leader of the biggest opposition party no longer believes in any free elections.

[Correspondent Anders Eriksson] Since the failed coup attempt, many of the opposition papers have had their pages censored and one of the papers was not allowed to be published at all. The police also raided the headquarters of Musavat, the biggest opposition party, whose leader, Isa Gambarov, was detained for several hours. He does not for a moment believe in President Aliyev's promise of free and fair elections later this year.

Gambarov told this program that if the situation is relatively stable, parliamentary elections are likely to be held, but the regime will create such circumstances around the elections that the result can be falsified. As long as a former KGB and party chief is holding power, there will be no democracy in this country, the opposition leader says.

Around 100 people were killed, among them the leader of the revolt, former deputy interior minister Rovshan Javadov, when President Aliyev's forces last Friday stormed the military base where the coup leaders had taken refuge.

They will try again, they will never forget the death of their leader, according to a young man whom I met in one of Baku's main streets, but Aliyev was wrong to proceed so violently, he says. Others whom I met are saying, however, that President Aliyev was right to put down the revolt. Now we need stability so that we can at long last have a better life, one man says. The political opposition fears, however, that Aliyev, having put down the second coup attempt in six months, will now ruthlessly seek to avert a third attempt. This is Anders Eriksson in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Aliyev: Foreign Services Involved in Mutiny

LD2003120695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1116 GMT 20 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Mar 20 (Interfax)—Azeri President Geydar Aliyev has said [as received] about the involvement of foreign special services in the mutiny by a special police unit in Baku last week. At the meeting in Baku on Sunday [19 March] with leaders of the law-enforcement bodies, Aliyev did not name the countries, whose special services are involved, as he said, in the developments of March 17. However, he mentioned the name of a citizen of Turkey, who, according to president, works as an adviser at the Azeri parliament.

Aliyev said that the forces, which last week attempted to change the situation in Azerbaijan, "still exist and operate both inside and outside the country".

Azeri Prosecutor General Eldar Gasanov told those present at the meeting that during the clashes in Baku on March 17 between Azeri government forces and the rebel special police unit, 38 people were killed, including six civilians, latest reports say. As many as 69 people were injured, including 22 civilians.

According to the prosecutor general, 362 people have been arrested, however, many rebel policemen managed to escape. A brother of the rebel policemen leader Rovshan Dzhavadov, Makhir, also escaped, he said. Gasanov said that "now the escapees are being wanted."

Gasanov also said that the apartments of 38 rebel officers as well as the office of the independent trade union of free businessmen headed by Makhir Dzhavadov, have been searched.

Gasanov said that the last October developments in Baku and Gyandzha, when, besides, special policemen, the forces subordinate to ex-prime minister Suret Guseynov opposed the authorities, and the developments of March 17 are being investigated as a single case.

He said that there are "traitors" in the ranks of the law-enforcement bodies of Azerbaijan. They, he said, should be "revealed as soon as possible".

Meanwhile, on Sunday, the wives and mothers of the special policemen gathered in front of the Turkish Embassy and handed over to the Ambassador a request to help identify those killed and arrested. The women said they still know nothing about the fate of their husbands and sons.

Opposition sources told Interfax that the leading opposition newspaper AZADLYG did not come out on Saturday.

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Georgia

Report on 'Tense' Situation in South Ossetia

AU1703192195 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian 3-4 Mar 95 p 1, 2

[Article by Akaki Gogichaishvili: "Russia Wants To Abolish the Georgian and Ossetian Peacekeeping Battalions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent important information about the Samachablo [South Ossetian] region first appeared in the press a couple of months ago and, then, a ruckus broke out in Parliament over the OSCE plan to resolve the Ossetian-Georgian conflict. This plan turned out to be anti-Georgian and signified almost the creation of an Ossetian state. It was condemned by Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze, whereas Hans Jorg Eiff, head of the OSCE mission in Georgia, justified it by saying that "one is in the process of searching. This plan has not worked out; instead, a second and better one is being elaborated."

Quite some time has elapsed since this was said and no more official statements regarding the Samachablo region were issued until recently. A few days ago, a Russian general appeared on television and informed us that the tripartite peacekeeping forces should be disbanded and the situation in the region should be controlled only by Russian Army units with the presence of military experts from the OSCE as observers. REZONANSI was interested in the current situation in Samachablo and got in touch with several people who had returned from this region and, on the basis of what they had to say, has tried to form a real picture of the situation there.

Social Situation

The region's population is being supplied with water and electricity relatively well. The region is receiving electricity from North Ossetia and, as both Ossetian and Georgian villages share the same system of electricity supply, they have it in equal amounts. However, according to certain sources, so-called isolation work is currently being carried out on the high-tension power transmission lines, as a result of which electricity will be supplied only to the Ossetian population. Drug addiction has reached an unprecedented peak; the criminal situation is tense and there are facts of kidnapping and so forth. Most young people belong to various criminal groups and young Georgians frequently cooperate with Ossetian bandit groups. As soon as dusk falls, drug dealers, having made financial deals with the peacekeeping forces, transfer narcotics unimpeded to the village of Orchosani (that is controlled by Ossetian peacekeeping forces) or from the direction of the village of Iri to Oni from where they are transported to Georgia's inner regions. According to eyewitnesses, a large number of automobiles that have been stolen from various regions in Georgia for resale in North Ossetia are kept hidden in the forest on the outskirts of Orchosani.

There are practically no Georgians in Tskhinvali; the tiny number that remain there are virtual hostages. The local militia and OMON [special purpose militia detachment] control the situation in Tskhinvali. The entire Georgian population living in the region, on account of the difficult socioeconomic situation and their lack of social protection, are totally disillusioned and have lost all hope of receiving any kind of real help from the authorities.

The Internal Political Situation

The region is being administered by L. Chibirov, chairman of the so-called "Republic of South Ossetia" State Nikhas [Supreme Council]. However, he is unable to control the situation fully; he cannot control all the armed groupings that are functioning in the region. Chibirov's opponent is his deputy A. Kabisov [name as transliterated] (who, according to certain sources, was released from his post a few days ago). The reason for their confrontation is the question of the status of the "Republic of South Ossetia." According to Chibirov's plan, the "Republic of South Ossetia" should have the status of an administrative unit (possibly united with the Republic of North Ossetia) within a single state formation created on the basis of the CIS member states. However, Kabisov gives preference to the formation of the independent state of South Ossetia. He is opposed to any mechanism of Russian administration of the "Republic of South Ossetia." Incidentally, as they say, under Kabisov's patronage and with his support, a group of Ossetian fighters were sent to the zone of the Russian-Chechen conflict to fight on the Chechen side.

The leadership of the so-called "Republic of South Ossetia" conducts its administration not only by relying on armed groupings but also by using more refined political mechanisms such as the "republic's procurator's office" and the "republic's security service." In the procurator's office, cases are differentiated and examined on ethnic grounds. It is probably easy to comprehend that crimes committed against the Georgian population by Ossetian criminals are examined in a superficial and tendentious manner and the latter are not punished. In conclusions to such cases, there is always reference to the fact that the identity of the culprit has been established but that he died in this or that situation and no longer physically exists. At the same time, it is established in various documents pertaining to cases conducted by the procurator's office that the Georgian law enforcement structures do not take any punitive measures against persons of Georgian nationality suspected of having committed crimes against the Ossetian population. On the basis of these and other fabricated accusations, the Ossetian side is trying to lay the blame on the Georgian authorities for the tense criminal situation that prevails in the region.

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"Ossetian security" is luring members of families of mixed nationality and also representatives of the criminal world and drug addicts into becoming informers on the basis of financial deals and other types of incentives and is gathering written proof concerning existent or nonexistent facts of oppression of Ossetian nationals by the Georgian side so that this material can be used at a suitable time to swing international public opinion in its favor.

The Situation Concerning the Peacekeeping Forces

As is known, in accordance with a resolution issued by the Mixed Control Commission [MCC], a united command for the peacekeeping forces was formed in December of last year under the leadership of a Russian representative. According to certain servicemen from the Georgian formations in the peacekeeping forces, the Russian side considerably exceeds its powers that have been determined by the MCC resolution: Russian servicemen enter onto the territory of the Georgian military unit without any kind of written authorization, demand that the unit's commanders issue orders in Russian, and complain about the dress and discipline of the Georgian servicemen. If the commanders of the Georgian unit do not submit to the Russian servicemen's demands, the latter phone high-ranking members of the Georgian military in Tbilisi and, through them, apply pressure upon the "recalcitrants."

At the same time, it is significant that there are no more local conflicts between Russian units in the peacekeeping forces and Ossetian armed formations. There is complete mutual understanding between them, which is entirely logical if one takes into account that, in accordance with the MCC resolution, the Ossetian peacekeeping battalion (whose separation from other armed formations is wholly relative) is financed and correspondingly supplied with weapons by Russia. As a result, the Ossetian side, in comparison with the Georgian side, is far better equipped and trained. It should also be pointed out here that, according to reliable sources, the MCC resolution states that a demilitarized zone stretching several kilometers should be formed for which purpose heavy armored equipment has to be "confiscated" from the Georgian side while the equipment on the Ossetian side should be "inactivated" in the zone. True, no combat equipment has been confiscated from the Georgian side, but the Georgians, probably in response to the categorical demand contained in the resolution, have transferred this hardware to Gori. As a result, in the event of a combat situation arising, the Ossetian side, unlike the Georgian side, will not require much time to mobilize its heavy equipment. At the same time, as we have already pointed out, the restriction concerned only tracked vehicles. Taking into account the fact that the Georgian side has virtually no wheeled combat equipment, this signifies its total disarmament, whereas the Ossetian side has quite a few wheeled armored vehicles such as BTR's and BTR-80's that are located in the peacekeeping zone.

The Situation in the Peacekeeping Forces' "Kitchen"

Since the beginning of this year, on the initiative of the OSCE, training exercises have been taking place to ascertain the physical and combat readiness of the peacekeeping forces. The Ossetian and Russian sides refused to hold these exercises within the territory on which their own forces are deployed whereas the Georgian side, distinguished by its zeal, naturally allocated its own military unit's territory for this purpose. As a result, the Russian and Ossetian military feel very much at home with their weapons located on the Georgian unit's territory. They know all the defense facilities on the Georgian side, the types and amount of weapons it has, and the numerical composition and identity of its personnel. Along with all these "favors," it is also significant that these exercises are being shown on Ossetian television and, in the reports, the Georgian soldiers are referred to as occupiers. For some reason, not a single Georgian journalist has been present at these exercises and the majority, in general, do not have any information about what is going on in the region. The Georgian soldiers' uniform consists of high boots and shabby Soviet Army overcoats that do not have any kind of identification markings; on the other hand, the Ossetian soldiers have light high winter boots and light warm jackets that give them mobility and in which they feel completely comfortable, unlike the Georgian soldiers. Consequently, the Ossetians and Russians always perform better in the training runs. As a result of a shortage of ammunition, the marksmanship level is extremely low in Georgian units; the results of the training show that, from this point of view, the Ossetians are clearly better than the Georgians. In spite of the Georgians' constant superiority in such disciplines as boxing and wrestling, the exercises, taken as a whole, are having a bad effect on the fighting spirit and bravery of the Georgian soldiers. In order to prepare for the exercises, the Ossetian side is carrying out its shooting practice on the outskirts of the village of Kusreti that is located close to Tskhinvali. First, the Ossetian side, along with members of the peacekeeping forces, are also giving combat training to the local population (so-called reservists) at the Kusreti base and no one is controlling this. Second, the stationing location of the Georgian battalion can be clearly seen from this base and, as such, the latter is an excellent spot for the Ossetians to carry out reconnaissance.

Conclusion

During the first half of February, a meeting of representatives of the four sides was organized in Tskhinvali at which the current situation in the region was discussed. REZONANSI has no knowledge of the exact nature of the discussion and the results (if we do not include the Russian general's statement that was mentioned earlier). On 28 February, representatives from political parties in Georgia and state officials travelled to Vladikavkaz to participate in a conference devoted to the problems in the Samachablo region as a whole and organized under the aegis of the OSCE.

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Shevardnadze on UN, Russian, CIS Attitude to Genocide

LD1903163395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1416 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Mar 18 (Interfax)—The neutral position of the Russian peacekeeping forces' command in Abkhazia is not in line with the mandate approved by the CIS leaders under which Russian peacekeepers must create conditions for safe and dignified return of refugees at present, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said in a statement circulated on Saturday [18 March].

Shevardnadze said more than 500 militants and police officers headed by some members of the separatist government had entered the villages of the Ghali Region and set to fire many houses on March 11-14. According to preliminary information, 24 civilians were shot and more than 150 people were taken hostages. "There were incidents involving torturing and humiliating people," Shevardnadze said in his statement.

"Separatists need talks on peace settlement as a disguise," he said.

Shevardnadze said he was bewildered by "surprising neglect and inactivity" displayed by "rather a large group of international observers" towards the crimes. He said the observers were not informing international organizations or even countries they represented on the outrageous crimes.

Shevardnadze said he wanted to warn Abkhaz separatists that the people's patience was not endless. He said he believed that the "reconciling position of the UN, CIS countries and Russian peacekeepers to the facts of vandalism, mass crimes, genocide and ethnic cleansing launched by the criminal separatist regime could not last forever."

Shevardnadze Seeks UN Tribunal on Abkhaz 'Crimes'

LD1803140395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1907 GMT 17 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] United Nations, 17 Mar—The UN Security Council expresses concern about the exacerbation of the situation in Abkhazia, particularly in Gali rayon, and urges the sides to set up the quest for a political settlement to the Georgia-Abkhazia conflict, including by means of defining Abkhazia's political status. This is stated in a statement made by Li Zhaoxing (China), chairman of the Security Council, at today's session of the council.[passage omitted]

Also today Eduard Shevardnadze, the head of state of the Georgian Republic, sent a letter to the UN Secretary General which stressed: "The time has come to set up a new international tribunal to punish those who have committed crimes against humanity in Abkhazia." The Georgian leader described the actions of the Abkhazian side on the refugee question as "ethnic cleansing." "For over a year now displaced persons have been in no position to return to their homes, but the Abkhazian side stubbornly continues to put obstacles in the way of the repatriation process and terrorizes the remnants of the Georgian population in Gali and other rayons of Abkhazia, as well as those few people who were recently repatriated. It is clear that the policy of 'ethnic cleansing' is not only still going on, but is being reinforced by measures to avert the process of an organized return of the displaced persons and refugees to their homes which is being systematically undertaken by forceful means," E. Shevardnadze stressed.

Abkhazia Withdraws Police From Gali

LD1703181795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1437 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, Mar 17 (INTERFAX)—Abkhazia has now withdrawn police reinforcements it sent to Gali district, Deputy Commander of Russian Peacekeepers Colonel Shevchuk said. Sukhumi maintained that the reinforcements were moved there to destroy groups of saboteurs infiltrating from Georgia.

Shevchuk told a meeting by the four-party commission for regional peace in Zugdidi yesterday that there were incidents of unlawful action by the Abkhaz police units in Gali, sources in Zugdidi told Interfax.

He said nine people were killed under circumstances yet to be clarified. A total of 190 Georgian hostages were released but 13 others are still missing.

The U.N. envoy had protested against the Abkhaz authorities' operation in Gali saying he would report the violations of the regional peace accords to the U.N. headquarters in New York.

In the meantime, tension is at an all-time high in Zugdidi for the second day in a row. Hundreds of Georgian refugees are demonstrating in the city's central square in protest against Abkhaz reprisals in Gali.

Yesterday the protesters demanded that Georgia should send its own security forces to the district.

Protest Letter Sent to Peacekeeping Forces Head

LD1803094695 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Center for Securing Information on the Settlement of the Abkhazian Conflict reports that Givi Lominadze, Georgian state minister and the head of state's representative in the Samegrelo region, convened a meeting in Zugdidi on 17 March. [passage omitted]

The meeting focused on the situation in the region resulting from the heinous crimes committed by Abkhaz

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paramilitary units in the Gali District. Because the Russian peacekeeping forces did not show adequate reaction to a new wave of genocide of ethnic Georgians and criminal incidents within the security zone of the peacekeeping operation, Givi Lominadze has sent a protest letter to Lieutenant General Vasiliy Yakushev, the commander of the Russian peacekeeping troops.

The meeting adopted a resolution on securing alleviating the tension caused by the Gali events, and planned measures to alleviate the difficulties the people displaced from Abkhazia were experiencing.

'Stabilization' of Gali Situation Reported

LD1803195195 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A certain stabilization of the situation can be observed in Gali District at present. The peacekeeping forces as well as UN observers have considerably stepped up their activity. However, there are still incidents involving the so-called Abkhaz police forcibly occupying houses and robbing the population.

Commander Explains Inactivity in Gali Operation

LD1903145495 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As it may be recalled, the crime situation in Abkhazia remains grave. Namely, punitive operations are being conducted within the 12 kilometer security zone in the Gali District. According to eyewitnesses, the operation carried out by 400 paramilitary, together with the Abkhazian police is being supervised by Givi Agrba, the interior minister of the Gudauta separatist group. All this has been happening in front of the Russian peacekeeping forces and UN Observers.

The Samegrelo regional administration sent a letter of protest to Lieutenant General Vasiliy Yakushev, the commander of the peacekeeping forces. Yakushev cannot deny the truthfulness of the facts stated in the protest. However, he explains the permission for the Abkhaz paramilitary to enter the security zone by the fact that this was an operation planned to be carried out in the Gali District by the Abkhazian interior ministry.

Refugees Protest Anti-Georgian Campaign in Abkhazia

LD1903173595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1655 GMT 19 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi March 19 TASS—Georgian refugees from the Gali District of Abkhazia rallied in the town of Zugdidi on Sunday [19 March] to condemn Abkhazian separatists for an anti-Georgian punitive campaign.

The speakers said that Abkhazian separatists, acting under the banner of struggle against saboteurs, are conducting a punitive operation in the Gali District of Abkhazia, as a result of which over 300 Georgian civilians have been taken hostage and over 20 killed.

The participants in the rally adopted an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and the Georgian leadership.

The refugees also accused Lieutenant-General Vasiliy Yakushev, commander of peace-keeping troops in the conflict zone, of taking a pro-Abkhazian position. They said they no longer trusted accused him and demanded his removal.

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Estonia

Finance Ministry Official Describes Budget Shortfall

LD1703183195 Tallinn Reklaamitelevisioon Network in Estonian 1915 GMT 16 Mar 95

[From the ""Ariuudised" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Receipts into the state budget this year have been meager—This is what Ants Liiver, the Finance Ministry's budget department head, told "Ariuudised" when commenting on the receipts of the first two months. During the first two months, 1.28 billion kroons were received, which is 14.5 percent of this year's revenue. This, however, is 2.1 percent below the plan.

[Begin recording] [Liiver] The figures as they are show that receipts are not generous. It could have been predicted that during the first months of the year, receipts are lower, relatively speaking, than toward the end of the year. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Compared with last year's preliminary basic budget, the revenue increased by 18 percent in January of this year. At the same time, the budget expenditure is 52 percent larger than last year. This situation has resulted, justifiably, in tensions when it comes to providing funds.

[Liiver] Of course, at the end of the year, at the end of 1994, things of course were normalized, due to supplementary budgets; then we were able to balance things, but relatively speaking, receipts at the beginning of last year were better.

[Correspondent] A preliminary forecast for the 1996 budget has been drawn up at the Finance Ministry. It takes into account the receipts of last year as well as the first two months of this year. No changes in the taxation legislation nor promises given in the pre-election campaign are reflected in this initial draft budget. According to a preliminary forecast, the 1996 budget will amount to 10.2 billion kroons, which is 16.2 percent more than this year. On the budget revenue side, the role of the sales tax will increase, from 49 percent this year to 52.8 percent, with the sales tax revenue increasing by a total of 25.3 percent.

[Liiver] Speaking about other forecasts, prices will increase by around 20 percent, and one can conclude from this that there will be tension. And so as to keep the salaries in the public sector enterprises in line with increased prices, one will have to make severe expenditure cuts somewhere. There is no other way at present.

[Correspondent] The priorities of the 1996 budget are up to the government to decide. According to the preliminary ideas at the Finance Ministry, expenses on education and the Ministry of Education will be increased. The amount to be invested by the state will in fact not really change and will stay at around 843 million kroon mark. [end recording]

Ministry Official: Power Plant 'Must Half' Output

WS2003102295 Tallinn BNS in English 1600 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Mar 17, BNS—Estonia must reduce by half the output of the Baltic Power Station because of the station's outdated facilities and decrease in demand, said Arvi Hamburg, deputy chancellor of the Economics Ministry.

The Baltic Power Station is one of the country's two major electric power plants beside the Estonian Power Station that were built during the Soviet rule to produce electric energy also for Russia's northwestern region. Both stations, located in the region of Narva, near the current border with Russia, operate with oil-shale.

As Estonia no longer is exporting electric energy to Russia, there is no need or even possibility to maintain the current capacity, Hamburg said.

"Reconstruction or upgrading of one of the stations is an urgent need, while keeping both stations working at full capacity would require enormous costs which the country cannot afford," he explained.

Hamburg said the station is to continue operation for an estimated two or three years more—as long as its decades-old facilities can be kept running. A detailed plan regarding the power station's future is expected ready by this autumn.

"It is likely that about half of the station will be upgraded," the economics ministry deputy chancellor said. He added that the actual size of the facilities to be kept in operation depended on the demand for electric energy in Narva and the adjacent city of Ivangorod, on the Russian side of the current borderline.

Estimates of the necessary investment will made by the Nordic Investment Bank, he added.

Latvia

Minister Visits UK, Coordinates Anticrime Efforts

WS1703134295 Tallinn BNS in English 1000 GMT 17 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Mar 17, BNS—During his visit to Great Britain, Latvian Interior Minister Janis Adamsons agreed with representatives of the British police structures on further cooperation in curbing organized and economic crimes.

Adamsons said Thursday [16 March] at a press conference he met in Great Britain with the leadership of the

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Home Office, Foreign Office and police as well as representatives of the Scottish police and London City police.

An agreement was reached that several groups of experts would visit Latvia to read lectures and give consultations on police work with financial establishments and fighting against crimes in banking system as well as ordering of legislation in this sphere.

The experts would also give their conclusion on the situation in the Latvian banking system, including problems related to the activities of the Latvian Industrial Bank.

A delegation of Scottish policemen will visit Latvia in the middle of April, and in turn Latvian representatives will tour Scotland. Adamsons also discussed a possibility to sign a bilateral agreement in cooperation in organized crime curbing.

Signing of a similar agreement with Germany is scheduled for the late March.

During the visit to Great Britain, Adamsons also met with the deputies of the British Parliament's Baltic Support Group.

Foreign Minister Favors Increasing Ukrainean Trade

LD1903182295 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1700 GMT 19 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Latvia is in favor of developing relations with Ukraine both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of a future Baltic and Black Sea union. Latvian Foreign Affairs Minister Valdis Birkavs stated this in connection with his forthcoming visit to Kiev. He noted that the establishment of a Baltic and Black Sea union is viewed by Latvia through the prism of establishing economic cooperation, first and foremost, between the states of this organization. Valdis Birkavs emphasized that Latvia is interested in the creation of favorable conditions for expanding trade between Ukraine and Latvia, and also in the establishment of a transit route for products from Black Sea states via Ukraine to Baltic Sea ports and in the reverse direction.

State Minister Reports Foreign Debt

WS2003102395 Tallinn BNS in English 1559 GMT 18 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Mar 18, BNS—Latvia's foreign debt on March 1 was 191.58 million lats but state credit obligations equalled 296.44 million lats, External Funding State Minister Indra Samite said Friday [17 March] at a press conference.

As reported, on Feb. 1, state foreign debt was also approximately 192 million lats and on Jan. 1—188.53 million lats.

Samite clarified that in February, the state has not undertaken any new obligations. Foreign debt has increased in January, for the state has received financial funding under the signed agreements.

The volume of foreign debt can not be defined very precisely, for loans are taken in different currencies and debt volume in lats changes along with fluctuations of exchange rate.

There are forecasts that on Jan. 1, 1996 foreign debt will edge up to 273.93 million lats.

As reported, under International Monetary Fund's advice, by year 2000, foreign debt should not exceed 14 percent of gross domestic product sum. In 1994, foreign debt was 9.6 percent of gross domestic product.

In 1995, foreign debt is likely to be 11.5 percent of gross domestic product. In 1992, foreign debt was 37.12 million lats but in 1993 already—133.23 million lats.

Under the Finance Ministry project which prevents signing of new credit agreements, in 1995, as mentioned, foreign debt will be 273.93 millions lats, in 1996—257.09 million lats, in 1997—240.98 million lats but in 2000 it will be 152.21 million lats.

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